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Convention Held on Trade in Endangered Species

South Africans on Ivory Compromise

OW0903093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Kyoto, March 9 KYODO—A group of four Southern African states proposed Monday to member nations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) a compromise plan for resuming global trade in ivory.

On Thursday, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe withdrew an earlier package of proposals which would have allowed a complete resumption of the ivory trade.

The withdrawal appeared motivated by strong opposition from other CITES members to resuming trade without adequate international and domestic measures to prevent ivory smuggling and elephant poaching.

Monday's compromise proposal would allow for the phased resumption of ivory trading by the four countries following the next CITES conference within two to three years, provided effective trade controls and law enforcement are in place.

In a draft resolution submitted to the CITES Secretariat at the Kyoto International Conference Center, the four said they would accept a moratorium on commercial exports of raw and worked ivory.

They said the moratorium would exclude hunting trophies and domestic sales of worked ivory.

The draft said the four nations recognize "in principle, trade in ivory is consistent with the philosophy of sustainable use of natural resources."

The draft also said a moratorium on the trade "will result in significant opportunity costs to rural peoples and wildlife agencies in the proposing states."

Representatives of the four countries have repeatedly said at the conference that revenue from ivory could be used to maintain their wildlife reserves and assist local populations.

Botswana's Minister for Commerce and Industry Ponatshego Kedikilwe said his country could earn "millions of dollars" if allowed to resume the trade.

The draft proposal is likely to come up for debate at the conference as early as Tuesday.

But, because of its controversial nature, conference organizers may postpone a final vote on the issue to later in the week to prevent discussion delaying decisions on other issues.

The CITES conference began March 2 and ends March 13.

South Africans Withdraw Proposals

OW1003033892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0320 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Kyoto, March 10 KYODO—A group of four Southern African countries and South Africa on Tuesday withdrew proposals at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference in Kyoto for a staged resumption in the ivory trade.

Following a 105-minute discussion of the proposal put by Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Namibia, the chairman of a CITES conference committee interrupted debate to announce that 15 countries, including the United States, Tanzania, and Zambia, had spoken against the proposal and only one, Switzerland, had spoken in support.

He then responded to a request from Zimbabwe for a temporary suspension of the debate for the delegates of the four countries to consult.

After a seven-minute break, delegates resumed their seats and the delegate from Botswana, speaking on behalf of the four, announced they would withdraw their proposal.

The proposal put by the four would have imposed a limited moratorium on the ivory trade until all four had antipoaching measures in place sufficient to satisfy other CITES member countries.

Exceptions to the moratorium would have been trade to countries which do not permit the reexport of ivory products, and the sale of ivory within the four countries to meet the demands of the tourist industry.

The Southern African elephant currently has an Appendix I listing under CITES regulations which automatically ensures that the species and its products are banned from international trade.

Under the withdrawn proposal, the four had sought to have the African elephant down-listed to Appendix II to permit controlled trade.

A similar proposal put by South Africa was also withdrawn after a brief debate.

Several African countries complained during the debate that South Africa was one of the main outlets for ivory poached in their countries.

Opposition to the proposals appeared to come from countries which argued that any limited resumption of the ivory trade would be a signal to poachers to again enter the market.

"The poachers of Africa are waiting for a message from us," a delegate from Tanzania said. "If they get the message that we are down-listing the elephant, they will resume poaching before we have left Kyoto."

Speaking in support of the proposal by the four countries, a delegate from Botswana said the current Appendix I listing of the elephant blocks economic options for his country. "Some of us have been asked to burn ivory while our populations are starving."

A delegate from Zimbabwe told the conference that the decision at the previous CITES conference in Lausanne in 1989 to list the elephant on Appendix I failed to take account of "the fact that not all African elephant populations were declining."

He said it was time for CITES member countries to allow the southern African countries to utilize their elephant populations in a sustainable way.

During a debate on South Africa's proposal, a Japanese delegate said Japan in principle supported both proposals, but had not been given an opportunity to speak in support of the four other southern African countries' proposal.

Indonesian Linked to Illegal Trade

OW0903104 92 Tokyo KYODO in English 0949 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Kyoto, March 9 KYODO—Most of Indonesia's official delegation to an international conference here on protection of animals and plants are wildlife traders and one has been identified as a link in a worldwide network of illegal animal traders, KYODO NEWS SERVICE has learned.

An official list of the Indonesian delegation to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference at the Kyoto International Conference Center makes no mention of the business affiliation of the traders and indicates that 15 of the 18-man mission are employees of the Indonesian Forestry Department.

But Sutisna Wartaputra, head of the delegation and director general of the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, said 13 dealers in animals and animal products were allowed onto the delegation after they failed to meet a deadline for applications as nongovernment observers.

Wartaputra said a compromise solution worked out with CITES allowed the dealers to attend as members of the delegation, but added that none was allowed to speak on behalf of the Indonesian Government at the conference.

The dealers, who have all now left Kyoto, were identified by conference delegates from other nations as traders in birds, reptiles and monkeys.

One of the delegation members, Mohammed Hardi, was named in a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) television documentary shown in Britain on April 10, 1991 as a major dealer in animals banned from trade under CITES regulations.

In the program, convicted German smuggler Kurt Schafer claimed that Hardi is an important link in the transiting of illegally obtained wildlife, including orangutans, from Indonesia.

Schafer, previously convicted for smuggling Australian birds, was indicted three weeks ago for his alleged role in the attempted smuggling of six Indonesian orangutans via Thailand to Belgrade zoo in Yugoslavia in 1990.

The program's producer, Christopher Terrill, visited a warehouse owned by Hardi's company Hasco Trading in Jakarta and used a hidden camera to film its contents, which included a red leaf monkey and South American macaws, all listed by cites as endangered.

Hardi's name also appears in a confidential Australian customs document detailing links between an international network of wildlife smugglers and traders.

Wartaputra said he has seen the BBC program and is aware of the accusations against Hardi, but said the Indonesian Justice Department and police had found no proof for the claims.

"In the time I have been in the job of director general, there has been no case regarding Mr. Hardi," he said.

The Indonesian Government is not infringing CITES regulations by including traders on its delegation, which is in accord with the spirit of Indonesian conservation laws, Wartaputra said.

He said the presence of dealers on the delegation is "educational" and not in conflict with the aims of CITES which is directly concerned with trade.

A member of a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization which collates information on the illegal primate trade said Hardi is known as one of the "major wildlife traders" in Southeast Asia.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time in the history of CITES that animal dealers have been members of a delegation," the representative of the South Carolina-based International Primate Protection League said. "Many people at this conference are appalled that they are here."

Another Southeast Asian delegate who specializes in law enforcement said any dealer able to attend a CITES conference as a member of an official government delegation could only do so with the permission of that government.

Dealers and traders in wildlife from many countries are represented at the CITES conference, but all are registered with the CITES Secretariat as nongovernmental organizations.

The CITES Secretariat refused to comment on the contents of the Indonesian delegation, but said it takes the view that the composition of official delegations is a matter for each government.

Indonesia is mentioned nine times in a list of 135 alleged infractions involving CITES member countries between June 1989 and October 1991 of the CITES convention prepared for the conference.

In the document, the CITES Secretariat said Indonesia was among 10 of the 112 contracting parties to CITES which have failed to respond to the allegations despite "a great deal of documentary evidence" sent to the countries concerned.

The CITES conference began on March 2 and ends March 13.

Wild Birds Proposal Too Vague

OW0903105792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Kyoto, Mar. 9 KYODO—Bird protection groups at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference here said Monday a proposal for restricting the transporting of wild birds with high rates of mortality is too open to interpretation.

In a draft proposal due for discussion at the conference as early as Tuesday, the Israeli and U.S. delegations suggested the introduction of measures such as the suspension of bilateral trade in wild birds where rates of mortality are identified as "high."

But delegates from the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in Britain both said the proposal is too open to interpretation by different countries.

In a joint press release issued before the CITES conference, both organizations said current CITES regulations and a "lax attitude to enforcement" leave wild birds open to abuse.

The RSPB claims that up to 50 percent of many bird species die from the trauma of confinement and transportation.

Alistair Gammell, the head of RSPB International, said the choice of the phrase "significantly high mortality" in the draft proposal could mean as much as 100 percent to some countries.

"From the debate, some of the governments are going to interpret it as much higher than other governments," Gammell said.

"The Belgian delegate said he found 5 percent too high and the British would put a maximum of 2 percent, but other governments would go higher," he said.

Gammell said the RSPB would prefer specific mortality figures, possibly depending on bird species and distances transported, written into CITES regulations.

"I think the Zimbabwean delegate got it right when he said unless exporting countries clean up their act, the importing countries are going to cut off the trade unilaterally," Gammell said.

Sweden Withdraws Bluefin Tuna Plan

OW1003052592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0453 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Kyoto, March 10 KYODO—Sweden agreed Tuesday to withdraw its motion at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference in Kyoto calling for restrictions on international trade in western Atlantic bluefin tuna, officials said.

Sweden and Japan reached a compromise on the issue, the officials said.

A Japanese fishing industry body had called on Sweden to drop its proposal to multilaterally curb the trade in bluefin tuna, which Sweden claimed faces possible extinction.

Russia Receives First Invitation to OECD Talks

OW0503032992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—A Russian representative will be invited for the first time to a meeting next week of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Japanese Government sources disclosed Thursday.

The representative will be invited as an observer to the two-day meeting of ministers in charge of science and technology, opening in Paris next Tuesday. It will be the first participation of a former Soviet Union member in a meeting of the organization, where policies of Western industrialized countries are discussed, the sources said.

The sources said the issue of the outflow of nuclear engineers from the former Soviet Union, which also involves issues of global nuclear control, will be one of the main topics to be discussed at the meeting. The conference will also discuss international cooperation on large-scale scientific and technological projects, such as manned space stations and nuclear fusion, and the enhancement of cooperation with the former Soviet Union and East European countries, they said.

Representatives of Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia, which have been participating in OECD meetings as observers, are also expected to take part. An OECD source said that with the participation of Russia, the meeting will be a good opportunity for leading industrialized nations to coordinate their policies on nuclear control.

OECD To Support Environment-Friendly Farm Policy

OW0703034892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0316 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are likely to support an agricultural policy that promotes minimal degradation of the environment, Japanese Government sources said Saturday.

The 24-nation OECD's farm ministerial meeting is expected to issue a communique that includes a statement advocating a shift to an "environmental-friendly" farm policy, the sources said. The communique would be issued in a two-day agricultural ministerial conference opening in Paris on March 26, they said. The OECD farm ministerial meeting was last held 10 years ago.

The meeting has so far pushed for cuts in farm supports and for free trade of farm produce, the source said. However, the nations have chosen to reverse course on environmental issues because they could no longer ignore the role that agriculture plays in preserving land, the sources said. They added the move was also prompted by a growing awareness about global environmental issues.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan and European Farm Commissioner Ray MacSharry are expected to attend the Paris meeting, the source said. Masami Tanabu, Japan's minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, is making moves toward attending the conference, they said.

Japan

Dunkel Initiative in GATT Deadlock Suggested

OW0903134692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—A senior government official said Monday the United States and the European Community hope GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel will take the initiative in breaking the deadlock on the farm issue in the Uguruay Round of world trade talks.

The official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, fresh from a survey visit to the U.S., also said Western nations want Dunkel to start efforts to promote the stalled negotiations as soon as member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) submit their plans to reduce farm subsidies.

The U.S. and the EC are willing to resume bilateral talks on the issue as soon as possible but preparations have made little headway so far.

The official, who declined to be named, said Washington also hopes Dunkel will take measures to break the impasse and pave the way for the trade negotiations committee to resume talks.

Minister Cautions U.S. Against Exhibiting Rice

OW1003030592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0229 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japan's farm minister issued a warning Tuesday about U.S. plans to display rice at a food show to be held in Tokyo next month.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu told reporters that rules under Japan's staple food control law must be observed strictly. The law bans Japanese imports of rice.

He was commenting on the U.S. plans to display rice at the Great American Food Show to be held on April 14-16 at a Tokyo hotel.

James V. Parker, minister-counsellor for agricultural affairs at the U.S. Embassy, disclosed the plans Monday, and said the embassy will consult the Japanese Food Agency on the matter.

Parker told Japanese reporters the U.S. has no commercial purposes in the plans, which he said are aimed only at introducing U.S. products to the Japanese public.

Last year, a political row developed between Japan and the United States when Washington defied a Japanese warning and displayed U.S. rice at a food show in Chiba, east of Tokyo.

The United States withdrew rice from the exhibition only after Japan issued a stern warning.

U.S. Claim on Semiconductor Pact Collapse Viewed

OW1003063192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japan's electronics industry disputed Tuesday an allegation by its U.S. counterpart that a bilateral pact on semiconductor trade is about to collapse because of Japan's failure to live up to its pledge to boost foreign market share.

The U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) said in an interim report submitted to President George Bush on Monday that the pact on chip trade signed last June is on the verge of failure.

A statement issued by a panel of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) said the U.S. report is based on misunderstanding and that Japanese users are going all-out to increase their purchases from foreign makers.

The American industry report was based on an incomplete evaluation of the situation that did not take into consideration the development of design-ins and long-term relationships between Japanese and U.S. makers, said the statement by the Japanese Association's Users' Committee of Foreign Semiconductors.

"At present, the Japanese semiconductor market is confronted with a serious recession. Despite such circumstances, Japanese users are trying very hard to increase market access for foreign semiconductors," the Japanese group said. "There are many users who try to place orders from foreign makers at the sacrifice of Japanese makers."

The American report complained of slow progress in Japan's imports of foreign-made semiconductors, saying the market share of imported chips in Japan has been stuck at 14.3 percent since the first quarter of 1990 despite an agreed goal of raising it to 20 percent by the end of 1992.

It claimed Japanese industry pledged to boost the share to 20 percent under the bilateral semiconductor trade agreement.

The Japanese statement, issued in the name of User Committee Chairman Shinichi Ito, said the pact states that the 20 percent share is not guaranteed either by the Japanese industry or the Japanese Government.

It also said the figures cited by the U.S. industry for the first quarter of 1990 are "only estimates used by SIA to fashion its arguments."

U.S. 'Expectations' Regarding Cambodia Viewed

OW1003124792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—A senior United Nations official on Tuesday told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the U.S. has "extremely high expectations"

Japan will assume a larger share in funding the U.N.'s peacekeeping, reconstruction, and refugee rehabilitation operations in Cambodia.

Foreign Ministry officials said this was conveyed to Miyazawa by Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day visit.

Akashi, a Japanese national, told Miyazawa he got a strong impression of U.S. expectations of Japan during a visit last week to Washington, where he discussed the financial needs of the Cambodia operation with government officials and members of Congress.

UNTAC operations, which will be the largest of their kind in U.N. history, have been officially estimated to cost around 1.9 billion dollars over sixteen months and to require 22,000 peacekeepers.

But Japan and other countries are presently consulting on ways to bring the costs down as they are also expected to provide massive funds for reconstruction and refugee resettlement in Cambodia, as well as for PKO operations in Yugoslavia.

Japan has pledged to initially contribute 24.9 million dollars to help pay UNTAC's start-up costs, set at 200 million dollars.

The figure for Japan's pledge is based on its 12.45 percent assessed annual contribution to the overall U.N. budget.

Although there has been no official request, U.S. officials and members of Congress have suggested that as Cambodia is of major interest to Japan, in funding UNTAC it should at least match the U.S. assessed contribution rate to the U.N. of 30 percent.

Japan, however, has insisted that UNTAC allocations should remain based on each country's U.N. assessment, although it has indicated it is willing to exceed its assessed rate in funding reconstruction and refugee resettlement activities.

Akashi was quoted as telling Miyazawa he hopes the Cambodian refugees, which number as many as 370,000, can be repatriated from Thailand by the end of October.

He said that if the repatriation process does not begin by the end of this month, its delay could upset the anticipated schedule for holding of final elections in April or May 1993.

Akashi said that one idea now being discussed is a possible airlift of refugees if the process does not begin by the end of March.

Miyazawa was quoted as saying he hopes Japan will be able to participate in UNTAC operations in Cambodia through the passage of a bill that would allow the overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces.

He said that without passage of the bill it would difficult for Japan to participate in a full-fledged manner.

Akashi will meet Wednesday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada.

Chinese Wartime Compensation Issue Said Settled

OW1003085892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0829 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—The issue of Japan's compensation to China for wartime actions there has already been settled, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"Our position is that this matter has been resolved...between the two governments," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents.

Reliable Chinese sources in Beijing told Kyodo News Service on Monday that when the National People's Congress reconvenes on March 20, draft legislation is expected to be submitted demanding 180 billion dollars from Japan in compensation for wartime civilian damages and casualties.

Hanabusa declined to comment on the reported move, but a diplomatic source said it would be impossible for the Chinese Government to change its stance that the issue of reparations and compensation for Japan's invasion of China in the 1930s and its subsequent actions was resolved by the two governments when they restored diplomatic relations in 1972.

Yeltsin 'Very Serious' on Territories Issue

OW0703122092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1123 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, fresh from talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said Saturday the Russian leader appeared very serious about settling a longstanding territorial dispute.

Nakasone said at a news conference he also felt Yeltsin considers Japanese aid to be important for the reconstruction of the Russian economy.

He suggested that Japan should launch a campaign to facilitate greater understanding of Russia and mutual understanding between the two countries ahead of Yeltsin's trip to Tokyo in September.

Meanwhile, Nakasone told Lithuanian Supreme Council President Vytautas Landsbergis during a meeting in Tokyo that Japan hopes to promote ties with Lithuania in the fields of politics, economics, and the arts, officials reported.

Landsbergis said Lithuania wants to exchange consul generals with Japan, the officials said.

Appeal Planned to Russian Public Over Islands

OW0803131292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 8 Mar 92

[From the noon newscast]

[Text] In a belief that trends in Russian public opinion hold the key to solving the northern territories issue, the government has decided that during Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan, it will call on Russia to disseminate accurate information among the people on the history of the northern territories. Kozyrev is scheduled to make his first visit to Japan 20-22 March.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has recently sent a letter to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in which he termed Japan as a potential ally, indicating his enthusiasm for normalizing relations with Japan. Encouraged by this fact, the government hopes Kozyrev's visit will promote relations with Russia.

Because Russia's new draft constitution requires the government to seek the people's approval in a national referendum for ceding its territories, and because nationalism has become popular in Russia, the Japanese Government considers that the trends in Russian public opinions hold the key to solving the territorial dispute. Taking Russia's moves into consideration, the Japanese Government intends to ask the Russian Government during Kozyrev's visit to Japan to publicize the fact that the northern islands are historically Japan's inherent territories. Japan is to offer its positive cooperation in the dissemination. Also, to appeal to the Russian public, the government plans to invite Russian residents on the four northern islands to visit Japan without visas next month at the earliest.

Use of SDF Planes Suggested for CIS Airlift

OW1003041492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Tuesday that Japan may use aircraft of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to transport medicine and other humanitarian aid to the republics of the former Soviet Union, officials said.

Miyazawa dropped the suggestion at the day's meeting of the Security Council of Japan, the cabinet forum on national security affairs.

The seven-minister Security Council agreed to study Miyazawa's proposal, officials said.

The council meeting was convened Tuesday to decide on a revision to the SDF law that would permit the use of SDF aircraft to rescue Japanese living abroad in emergencies or from trouble spots.

One of the council members suggested that since the proposed airlift to the former Soviet republics is humanitarian and for the purpose of peace, SDF aircraft could be used for the operation, which had been assigned to the Maritime Safety Agency.

The council will look into questions raised by the Cabinet Legislation Bureau and conditions within the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in regard to using SDF aircraft for the airlift under Article 100 of the SDF law, officials said.

Article 100 of the law permits the commissioning of such operations for the purpose of training.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe remarked, "if we can make people fly, why can't we haul goods. Can't we haul food and medical supplies at the same time we transport refugees?"

The Security Council comprises Miyazawa, Watanabe, Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, Home Affairs Minister Masaro Shiokawa, Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita, and Economic Planning Agency Director General Takeshi Noda.

Obuchi Terms CIS Aid Requests as 'Begging'

OW0703085092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Yonago, Tottori Pref., March 7 KYODO—A senior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) politician Saturday described requests for economic aid by republics of the former Soviet Union as 'begging.'

Keizo Obuchi, former LDP secretary general, made the reference here during a lecture meeting for supporters of LDP legislators.

"A verdict has been handed down on the question of which (is better), socialism or liberalism," he said.

"(The officials of the former) Soviet Union have visited Japan by turns and begged (aid)," Obuchi said. "It is apparent that socialism has collapsed."

Obuchi, a House of Representatives legislator, once served as chief cabinet secretary—the government's chief spokesman—under the administration of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

His comment comes just two weeks before Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is to visit Japan. It is widely expected that Kozyrev's talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other Japanese leaders will be on key bilateral issues, such as the lingering territorial dispute, a planned visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and aid to Russia.

Politicians from the former Soviet Union and the Russian Government have paid visits to Tokyo to discuss ways to thaw long-icy bilateral relations.

The Tokyo government has clung to the position of linking full-fledged financial assistance to progress in its request to regain sovereignty over four Russian-held islands off eastern Hokkaido.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Wednesday after a visit to Moscow that Yeltsin agreed with his proposal to solve the territorial dispute by the year 2000.

Roundtable Discussion Held on Russian Situation

OW0803111392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Studio roundtable with Deputy Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito, Director Tadao Morimoto of the Toray Management Research Institute, Professor Shigeki Hakamada of Aoyama Gakuin University, Associate Professor Masayuki Yamauchi of Tokyo University, and Associate Professor Sergey Braginskiy of Yokohama City University; moderated by NHK commentator Korehito Obama: "Analysis of the Russian Situation: What Are the Futures of Yeltsin, Economic Reform, and the Northern Territories?"—live]

[Excerpts] [Obama] Good Morning. It has been almost three months since the Soviet Union was replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, it appears that the economic situation in 12 CIS republics, including Russia, has become even worse. Ethnic conflicts are breaking out one after another, and the Azerbaijani president has recently announced his intention to resign in connection with a confrontation with Armenia. As disorders intensify in the CIS, we feel more uneasy about the CIS situation that directly affects us—the control of nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union, for instance.

Today, we have several panelists to discuss what is going on in the former Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Mr. Saito, you have recently visited Moscow. What is your view on the current situation in the CIS?

[Saito] My opinion is that, in short, the nation is undergoing a period of great confusion with many problems, but there is some hope. The current situation in the CIS can be discussed in the two different aspects of interrepublic relations and each republic's internal situation.

Regarding interrepublic relations, most republics strongly oppose Russia's attempt to organize a united armed force, and the role of the CIS as the central government is still uncertain. Newly drawn borderlines have become obstacles to interrepublic trade and other economic activities. The republics will also have to settle territorial issues. As seen in Russia, each republic is facing serious economic difficulties, and I will discuss this issue later.

There are some positive factors. CIS leaders still have the strong determination to carry out their reform efforts, and the international community is willing to support them. Also, it appears that inflation is slowing down a bit in the CIS although it is still uncertain if the economy is really becoming stable.

[Obama] Today, we are going to focus on the Russian situation, because the federation plays the leading role in the CIS. In this connection, please let me ask whether Russian President Boris Yeltsin can strengthen his political leadership. [passage omitted]

[Saito] I suppose many Russian people are feeling uneasy about their present circumstances; in particular, conservatives and military personnel are displeased with the government's political stance rather than their own economic sutuation. While they want to support somebody to replace President Yeltsin, they do not currently have such a strong leader. Therefore, we see that there is little chance of an overturn of the Yeltsin Government through a military coup. Such a political overturn is unlikely to happen unless the Yeltsin government fails to respond to a blowup of public dissatisfaction with the worsened economic situation. While President Yeltsin is losing his popularity, he is still the strongest leader in Russia. [passage omitted]

[Obama] Mr. Saito, what do you think of moves by the former Soviet forces?

[Saito] We are very concerned about their moves. The CIS has agreed to create a unified force and I think that the republics will move in that direction. Russia, however, appears to intend to retain control of not only strategic forces, but conventional forces as well. I believe that it will be very difficult to defuse the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine over their control. Ukraine, in particular, is not likely to compromise with Russia. I think that the former Soviet forces will split in the future. I fully agree with your views concerning Mr. Yeltsin's position. He is now encountering a very situation. Japan cannot stand by and watch the situation as if it were a third person. If there is no alternative to Mr. Yeltsin, Japan intends to help Mr.Yeltsin, who is firmly committed to reforms, which is the intention throughout the international community. We pin our hopes on Mr. Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

[Obama] I would like to discuss the economic reform. Mr. Morimoto, citizens in Moscow are believed to have sufficient food stocks. However, it has become impossible to replenish their stocks and there is speculation that food will run out in May or June, which would lead to riots. Mr. Saito, what do you think?

[Saito] We think that the economic situation there is very serious. I do not believe that the nation's economic prospects are optimistic. For example, a poll conducted by citizens at the end of February showed that a citizen needs 3,600 rubles a month to live, and only 1.3 percent of the citizens earns more than 3,600 rubles. Hence, nearly 99 percent of the citizens are not content with their present lives. I think that they are facing a very serious economic situation although I cannot predict how it will develop in the future. President Yeltsin and others are firmly committed to the economic reform. An IMF team is now in Moscow to work out an economic reform program. The IMF appears to be fully cooperating with the Russian Government. It is certain that the Russian Government will carry out the economic reform program formulated by the IMF. I think that if the economic reform program goes well, the future of that nation will not necessary be so pestimistic. [passage omitted]

[Obama] I would like to discuss the issue of controlling nuclear weapons. The international science center has been set up to resolve the issue, and I believe that the center should produce tangible results. [passage omitted]

[Saito] Japan is greatly concerned over this issue. Japan has asked them in various ways to strictly control nuclear weapons since the coup ended in failure. As for the nuclear weapons, I think that we need not be so concerned about them. Regarding the tactical nuclear weapons, they will be moved to Russia by July this year and most of them will be scrapped in compliance with promises made by the Russian Government. Regarding the strategic nuclear weapons, Ukraine and Belarus have declared that they would become nonnuclear nations although Kazakhstan has yet to show a clear attitude toward the issue. I think that it is necessary to dissuade Kazakhstan from retaining nuclear weapons. The brain drain of nuclear scientists from the former Soviet republics is an issue that needs to be tackled immediately, and Japan plans to cooperate with the center as much as possible.

[Obama] I would like to turn our subject to Japanese-Russian relations. Mr. Saito, the Russian Supreme Soviet appears to be working on a constitutional amendment. I have heard that the constitution will include a new clause requiring a national referendum for any ceding of territory. The Japanese are concerned that if the constitution includes such a new clause, it would be difficult to settle the issue of returning the northern territories to Japan. What do you think?

[Saito] A draft constitutional amendment, released last October, also stipulated the requirement of a national referendum for any ceding of territory. I think that is nothing new. It is not clear whether the amendment will be adopted at the Russian Supreme Soviet. I believe that we need not be concerned about it. [passage omitted]

[Obama] How will the Foreign Ministry deal with a visit by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev to Japan?

[Saito] His visit to Japan will be a juncture in improving Japanese-Russian relations. We intend to advance the territorial issue if possible during his stay in Japan. As was mentioned earlier, Mr. Yeltsin's standing at home is still shaky and it will be hard for him to make any political decision on the issue. However, we will make every possible effort to settle the territorial issue during his visit to Japan.

Bilateral Commission With Mexico Ends Meeting

OW0703151592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—The Japan-Mexico Commission for the 21st Century ended Saturday its third and last meeting with a final report urging Japan to extend technical aid to help Mexico cope with its environmental problems.

The commission was formed after an agreement between then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari during Salinas' June 1990 trip to Japan to work out recommendations on a future bilateral relationship under the name "Partnership Across the Pacific."

Its first meeting was held in Tokyo in May 1991, and the second in Mexico City last October.

The meeting held Friday and Saturday at the Foreign Ministry was attended by Nobuo Matsunaga, former Japanese ambassador to Mexico, Julio Rodolfo Moctezuma, former Mexican finance and public credit secretary, and other experts from both countries.

Regarding the North America Free Trade Agreement under negotiation by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the commission put in its report both the Japanese view the agreement must not prevent free trade, and the Mexican reply it should negotiate with the Japanese request in mind.

The report will be submitted to the leaders of the two countries in mid-April.

Miyashita Suggests Delay in Introducing AWACS

OW0703121992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Sohei Miyashita indicated Saturday that the introduction of AWACS [airborne weapon and control system] surveillance planes into the Japanese defense will be postponed until after fiscal 1996.

The introduction of the airborne warning and control system aircraft was originally scheduled for the fiscal 1991-1995 defense buildup program.

But Miyashita told the House of Representatives Budget Committee it is necessary to review the introduction of the high-technology AWACS in the current five-year defense program because of its high cost.

He also said more than 100 billion yen will be cut from the current defense program.

The government earlier promised to reduce by 100 billion yen the 22.75 trillion yen defense program for fiscal years 1991-1995, to help fund Japan's 9 billion dollar contribution to the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf war.

CITES Result on Bluefin Tuna Welcomed

OW1003105292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japan welcomes Sweden's decision at the Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Kyoto to withdraw its proposal to ban trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Masamichi Hanabusa said Japan appreciates Sweden's "reasonable and constructive" stance and the diplomatic efforts exerted by other countries to obtain the result.

In the face of strong opposition from Japan, the United States, and Canada, Sweden dropped the proposal on condition the numbers of Atlantic bluefin tuna are effectively monitored to ensure they are not heading for extinction.

Hanabusa quipped that the outcome is good news for "sushi-lovers."

The Fisheries Agency also welcomed Sweden's decision to withdraw its proposal to ban trade in Atlatic bluefin tuna.

The Swedish decision conforms to Japan's argument that fishery problems should be discussed by groups of experts and not at an environmental conference, agency officials said.

Sweden dropped the proposal at the CITES conference in Kyoto after it reached a compromise agreement on the issue in information negotiations.

Japan argued that the tuna issue should be discussed at an international treaty for the protection of tuna in the Atlantic Ocean.

The agency officials said questions involving bluefin tuna in the Atlantic will be discussed at a special session of the treaty to be held in Tokyo in late May.

North Korea

Joint Political Subcommittee Meeting Reviewed

SK0903151092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The first meeting of the Political Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held on 9 March in the South side's area of Panmunjom.

Attending the meeting were from our side Paek Nam-chun, chairman of the Political Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks, and six members; and from the South side Chairman Yi Tong-pok and six members, respectively. Today's meeting was held in camera, as agreed upon by the two sides.

At the end of the meeting, Paek Nam-chun, chairman of our side, held a news conference and informed the reporters of the status of the meeting. According to him, our side made a speech at the meeting.

In the speech, Paek Nam-chun said that all the fellow countrymen are now rejoicing, because the first meeting of the North-South Political Subcommittee was held just 20 days after the North-South agreement had been put into effect as the first task to implement the agreement. He then stressed that they are hoping for satisfactory progress in the work of the subcommittee to lead to excellent fruition. As a result, they are hoping that the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange, which is the common program of the North and South to promote reunification, is put into practice at an early date.

Paek Nam-chun stated that since the two sides have vowed to march together toward reconciliation, unity, and reunification as cosanguineous people sharing the same blood, the North and South should really end the past confrontation and division and make a fresh start toward reconciliation and reunification. He said that North-South reconciliation constitutes, along with nonaggression, the heart of the North-South agreement and that it is linked to a road reconnecting the severed national bloodline and recovering the lost national history, a boulevard leading to an independent and peaceful reunification.

Paek Nam-chun said: If and when the North and South reconcile with each other and achieve the entire nation's unity, it will at once be the country's reunification, for which we have hoped. Realizing reconciliation between the North and South means removing the state of political confrontation between the North and South.

Paek Nam-chun stressed: Without realizing reconciliation to remove the state of political confrontation between the North and South, it will be impossible to ease military tensions or realize cooperation and exchange appropriately.

Then, Paek Nam-chun made clear our side's view on the task to be done by the political subcommittee concerning the first chapter of the North-South agreement, Implementation of North-South Reconciliation. Calling first to mind the fact that, according to the North-South agreement, the political subcommittee is to discuss specific measures for implementing and observing the first part of North-South reconciliation, the first chapter, and work out a supplementary agreement, he noted that our side has considered a few points in working out a supplementary agreement as follows:

The first point is to work out a supplementary agreement faithful to the North-South agreement; the second point is to work in conformity with the subcommittee's functions; and the third point envisions the formation and operation of the North-South joint political committee, the institution that will implement the supplementary agreement.

Paek Nam-chun then produced a draft of a supplementary agreement for implementing and observing North-South reconciliation, the first chapter of the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange.

Clearly stated in 24 paragraphs in the draft of the supplementary agreement are specific measures for implementing and observing the first chapter, which consists of eight paragraphs, in the North-South agreement. Paek Nam-chun said that the draft of the supplementary agreement that we have proposed is not only reasonably drawn up in conformity with the subcommittee's mission and functions but also sufficiently reflects, in terms of content, issues that must be resolved without fail in every paragraph clearly stated in the portion on North-South reconciliation in the North-South agreement. He expressed his hope for an affirmative response from the South side.

Next, our side produced a draft of an agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South joint political committee. Stated in detail in the draft of the agreement consisting of six articles and 14 paragraphs are issues on the composition, function, and operation of the North-South joint political committee, and issues on effecting, revising, and supplementing the items as agreed.

Our side noted the need to define the level of the chairman of the North-South joint political committee at the ministerial level and to have a position of vice chairman. Paek Nam-chun then said that the North-South joint political committee, an institution to be formed for the implementation of the North-South agreement (?outside of the North-South agreement), can, given its functions, handle all types of working issues on the effectuation of the North-South agreement.

Paek Nam-chun also said that it will be good if the operation of the North-South Political Subcommittee is limited to three times annually on a regular basis. This is to avoid complicated matters in consultations, to guarantee convenience in the work, and to enable it to carry out its execution rationally. He also suggested that this will enbale a working-level council to be formed and operated within the North-South Political Subcommittee. He continued to say that because the work to put the North-South agreement into practice is very broad and complicated and that many problems actually can be raised, if a working-level council is formed within the subcommittee's framework and deals with the problems, the subcommittee will be able to further smoothly fulfill its function and further implement the North-South agreement well.

Next, our side raised the problem of establishing the North-South liaison office in Panmunjom, which is clearly provided in Article Seven of the North-South agreement and said that since an agreement on establishing and operating the North-South liaison office was adopted at the seventh round of North-South high-level talks, we are making a proposal on this so that its establishment and operation can be carried out within the stipulated time.

The draft of the agreement on the establishment and operation of the North-South liaison office in Panmunjom offered by our side consists of 12 paragraphs. The establishment of the office, the problem of its composition, its function, the problem of its operation, the problem of revision and supplements, and the problem of effectuation are all clearly written in detail.

Paek Nam-chun said that the draft proposed by us is thoroughly in accordance with the North-South agreement and, at the same time, sufficiently considers the existing custom of North-South liaison operations and practical possibilities. He continued to say that the North-South liaison office in Panmunjom will be able to smoothly implement its function.

Paek Nam-chun said that because the North-South liaison office to be established in Panmunjom will be in charge of overall liaison work upon authorization of the political parties, organizations, and individual figures as well as authorities of the North and South, there will be no need to keep the existing Red Cross liaison mission, which carries out Red Cross organizational liaison work, in Panmunjom. He proposed that the future liaison office in Panmunjom can assume the work done by the Red Cross.

Paek Nam-chun emphasized that if both sides are to carry out to the end the honorable duty and responsibility with which they have been entrusted, they must first of all make a fundamental turning point in their thinking and practice. He pointed out that due to the effectuation of the North-South agreement, a great turning point must be achieved in perceiving that the North and South are no longer enemies or unrelated persons and that they are fellow countrymen sharing the same fate and people of the same flesh and blood with the same blood ties.

Paek Nam-chun also said that the North and South not only need to have the attitude of uniting and cooperating with each other but must also have a correct attitude of regarding behavior as more important than words. He said that he truly hopes that magnificent agreements can be reached in all the problems that were dealt with in accordance with the nation's desire and expectation.

At the meeting, the chairman of the South side made a speech. Even though the basic mission of the North-South subcommittee is to adopt a supplementary agreement on the part of reconciliation in the North-South agreement, he did not utter a single word about this but only made a general speech. He said that the principle of the 4 July joint declaration was reconfirmed in the North-South agreement, and, to achieve this, democracy and human rights must be guaranteed. Nevertheless, the South side avoided talking about how democracy and human rights are being guaranteed in South Korea.

The South side said that one of the principles of the North-South agreement is to respect the other side's system and law and order and persisted that both sides must recognize each other. This is a repeat of the theory on the recognition of the original entity, the recognition of the system, and the recognition of reality. This reveals the intention to adhere to two Koreas and to continue maintaining the situation of division under the cloak of reunification.

The South side said that one of the other principles is that the North and South themselves must solve the problems. Therefore, the reunification problem can be solved only through the responsible parties concerned; thus, interference by individual figures must be excluded. This is nothing but openly announcing that the South side will limit dialogue for reunification only to the authorities and will eliminate the people from all social strata, who are the main body for the fatherland's reunification, from the dialogue for reunification.

Since the North-South agreement recognizes the principle of peaceful coexistence, the South side persisted that this coincides with the five principles of peaceful coexistence made by foreigners and the international charter [kukche honjang]. These are ignorant and humiliating words and actions to rationalize the South side's unreasonable act and a measure to abuse the five principles of peaceful coexistence with an insidious purpose. By doing so, the South side is saying that it is rejecting interference by outside forces and is supporting the principle of independence. Nevertheless, it not only dealt with our country's reunification problem as if it were a problem with another country but it also revealed its true intention to solve the reunification problem by borrowing some other country's strength.

Especially, the South side raised the problem of nuclear inspection, which is not even a problem to be discussed in North-South Political Subcommittee meetings. The South side issued preposterous words by saying that this issue is influencing North-South dialogue and that someone's nuclear development is increasing international apprehension.

In this connection, our side said that this kind of speech and behavior by the South side is a very improper act and a mockery and challenge towards us. Our side also demanded that the South side stop acts that interfere in internal affairs.

Our side said that we are living under the spirit of independence and the chuche spirit and that we have the capability to solve all problems through our own determination. Our side also emphasized that the South side does not have to worry about us.

Our side said that what we are all the more worried about is the South side's slavish submission to power. Our side strongly stated that the South side is ignoring our proposal to jointly deal with the United States' policy of strength and Japan's maneuver to arm itself with nuclear weapons. This currying favor with and yielding to outside forces makes us feel humiliated and ashamed for being of the same nation. Therefore, our side urged the South side to throw away its vicious habit of flattering and yielding to outside forces.

Our side also pointed out that for the South side to make a fuss is presumptuous and lacks logic. The South side even clearly knows that we are smoothly carrying everything out, such as already signing the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency and that this will be deliberated and go through procedures at the 8 April Supreme People's Assembly.

Stating that the United States has kept silent about the nuclear weapons brought into and deployed in South Korea and even though the South side declared the absence of nuclear weapons, it has been revealed that a storage site for nuclear weapons has been built in South Korea, Paek Nam-chun said that our worry only keeps growing with the passage of time.

Our side noted: Lurking behind the South side's act of pointlessly making a false charge even in the subcommittee meeting is a sinister intention to use the venue of (?talks) as a venue to speak for the position of the United States and to realize its political strategic purposes in its internal situation. This is also to put pressure on us, as intended by the warmaniacs, while dancing to the tune of the (?U.S. troops), who find the implementation of the North-South agreement unpalatable.

Following this, discussion of main issues began.

Expressing first disappointment and regret over the fact that the South side had even failed to bring a draft of a supplementary agreement, the key issue to be settled by the political subcommittee, our side said: The fact that the South side came to the talks empty-handed, without any preparations, and uttered empty words, shows its insincere attitude and position on the talks. This shows that it is nothing but a delaying tactic designed to delay things from the subcommittee's very first meeting.

Then, our side urged the South side to be sincerely prepared for the talks in order to operate the Political Subcommittee meeting, which is the most important meeting, successfully.

The South side's delaying tactic was evident in its insistence on discussing the issue of establishing and operating the North-South liaison office at Panmunjom before anything else.

Our side said that the issue of drawing up a supplementary agreement and the issue of forming and operating a North-South joint political committee should be discussed before anything else, given the importance of the mission and duty imposed on the political subcommittee, and if for no other reason than the need to take specific measures to implement and observe the portion in the first chapter of the North-South agreement dealing with the North-South reconciliation.

In response to this, the South side, saying that it will study the issue, proposed that a contact be held between the members of the two sides for the establishment of a liaison office at Panmunjom.

Our side said that it is unnecessary to hold a contact between the members if only the issue of establishing a liaison office at Panmunjom is to be discussed, as the mission and goal of the meeting is to draw up a supplementary agreement.

It was agreed to hold the next round of the Political Subcommittee meeting at Tongilgak in our side's area side on 27 March.

Thermal Plant Construction Progresses at Fast Pace

SK0703001392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA)—The construction of the East Pyongyang thermal power plant is progressing at fast speed.

Having set themselves the goal of supplying electricity and heat to the apartment houses of Tongil Street within March, the builders are these days assembling the generating and power supply equipment, equipment of boiler no. 2 and pipes, fulfilling their daily quotas at 200 percent.

The assembling of the equipment of boiler no. 2 has been carried out 70 percent and that of one generating unit 50 percent.

The builders moved 1,409,000 cubic metres of earth, tamped 44,900 cubic metres of concrete, assembled 11,670 cubic metres of prefabs and 4,750 tons of steel structures and 3,160 tons of equipment, thus completing the construction of several main buildings, chemical water purification basins, the outdoor substation and the coal carriage system and the laying of industrial water pipes and railway lines leading to the power plant during the last three years or more.

They fired boiler no. 1 at the end of last year and began sending steam to the construction site of Tongil Street.

The power plant will in the future be installed with several boilers and generating equipment to produce steam and heat needed for the production of hundreds of thousands of kw of electricity and for apartment houses and public buildings in the east Pyongyang district.

And a regenerative waste water hydraulic power station will be built there.

Provinces Discover 20 New Mineral Deposits

SK0903224592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—More than 20 new mineral deposits were recently discovered in Korea.

This discovery will help toward realising the chuche-orientation of the national economy, markedly boosting agricultural production and meeting local demand for raw material and fuel.

A promising magnetite deposit was prospected in Hochon, South Hamgyong Province.

The first survey of fertilizer mineral of great economic value was made in Sinhung in the east coastal area. The ore seam is 10 or 20 metres thick, its deposit estimated at millions of tons.

Anthracite of high calory was discovered in Chagang Province although it was considered as non-existent there.

This coal field with a deposit of millions of tons is of particular significance in the economic development in inland and the improvement of people's living standard.

Various kinds of rare metal ores were found in North Hamgyong, Kangwon, and South Hwanghae provinces and noble metal ores with deposits of tens of tons in Yanggang and North Pyongan Provinces.

Projects are making brisk headway to develop them.

Light-Industry Factories Modernized

SK1003115392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—A brisk work is on in Korea to remodel the light industrial factories on the modern line.

Entering this year, many units have undergone modernization to boost production.

New preparatory, weaving and dyeing shops with the total plottage of 20,000 square metres have been built at the Hwangju textile mill recently.

An injection-molded boots shop was commissioned at the Pyongyang vinyl chloride shoe-making factory to produce millions of pairs of quality shoes. This has nearly doubled the production capacity of the factory.

The Sakju food factory has been equipped with modern facilities to produce 130 kinds of delicious and nutritious foodstuffs.

The Pyongyang textile combine is replacing the equipment of the weaving process with up-to-date equipment and further modernizing the dyeing process.

The injection-molded shoes production process with a production capacity of millions of pairs of shoes is near commissioning at the Sinuiju shoe-making factory and the vinyl chloride boots production process with a capacity of one million pairs at the Sunchon shoe-making factory.

Modernization projects are in full swing at 20 odd central light industrial factories such as the Korean Silk Company, the Kaesong textile mill, and the Hamhung woolen textile mill and many local light industrial factories.

Paper Urges Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK0703060192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[NODONG SINMUN 7 Mar special article: "Loyalty to the Leader Is the Chuche-Type Revolutionaries' First Existence"]

[Text] Today we live and carry out the revolution in a glorious age led by a great leader [widaehan yongdoja]. There is no nobler and more honorable title for us party members and working people than to be called the loyal fighters for the party and leader, the chuche-type revolutionary. The sublime ideological and spiritual characteristics of the revolutionary fighters of our times lie in the fact that their loyalty to the leader is their first existence.

In today's situation wherein the Korean revolution is developing onto a new higher stage demands that the party members and working people struggle more vigorously with endless loyalty to the party and leader. It is important for us to be called the leader's revolutionary fighter, but it is more important for us to be loyal and dutiful to add luster to this title.

1. True revolutionaries are brought up in the bosom of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja]. It is entirely because they have the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] that the chuche-type Korean revolutionaries are adding luster to the everlasting political life with sublime ideological and spiritual traits to date unknown in history. The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il is not only an outstanding leader [yongdoja] who brilliantly succeeds and completes the chuche revolutionary cause but a great teacher and benevolent father [chaaeroun oboi] who has given a valuable political life to our revolutionary fighters and has brought them up to be genuine revolutionaries, embracing them in his warm bosom.

Under the party and leader's benevolence, our party members and working people are being firmly prepared to be the chuche-type communist revolutionaries who hold loyalty to the leader as their revolutionary faith and allegiance. They are also genuine loyalists and faithful dutiful children who protect and defend the party and the leader politically, ideologically, and with their lives. They are not perturbed in the face of any blowing wind.

The dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has defined loyalty to the leader not only as the first existence and basic trait of the chuche-type revolutionary but has taught it so that it may become their faith, conscience, morality, and existence. This is the noble guideline that has set forth the fundamental way to bring up the genuine chuche-type communist revolutionaries.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, has noted: One should make loyalty to the leader one's faith, conscience, morality, and life so that it can become a most steadfast, pure, and solid loyalty.

Loyalty to the leader is the most sublime communist trait and those engaged in the revolution must have it. The leader is the great leader of the revolution and its benevolent father. Under the leader, the revolution advances, and in the bosom of the leader, true existence is brought into bloom. The life and struggle of the revolutionary is unthinkable even one moment apart from the leader. Therefore, the revolutionaries develop the endless loyalty with which they totally entrust all their fate to the leader and struggle while devoting their lives for the leader.

Loyalty to the leader is the most valuable trait of the revolutionary. This ideological and spiritual trait cannot be developed or solidified automatically even if one is engaged in the revolution. There are no born revolutionaries in the world. As shown by historical experience, revolutionaries should make loyalty to the leader their faith, conscience, and existence so that they can wage a loyal struggle following the party and the leader while never withdrawing from their pledge and from the revolutionary road they have entered.

Loyalty to the leader should, above all, become one's faith. Because the true chuche-type revolutionaries in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle era made loyalty their faith, they could carry out the struggle upholding with true hearts the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song without anger even under difficult conditions. The loyalty which the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters had was not a piece of knowledge obtained from a book or a textbook, but it was an unshakable faith they acquired in the arduous and stern struggle under the great leader's leadership who pioneered the road of revolution for the first time.

Thus, loyalty should become one's faith so that it can become one's revolutionary's unique inseparable trait. To make loyalty one's faith means to have a firm determination and ideological resolve to uphold the leader with a true heart and follow him to the end. In other words, loyalty should become a firm ideological volition.

Only when loyalty to the leader becomes faith, can it become a genuine loyalty without falsehood and change under any circumstances. Everyone has their own faith and acts according to their faith. Faith is not only a firm belief of the ideology that one accepts, but is also a strong will that leads one to try to act according to one's faith.

Only when the people have a strong faith can they break through any difficulty and tribulation. Only then can they realize their pledge and determination to the end. Because revolutionaries embark on the road of the revolution with the pledge to be loyal to the leader, they should have a firmer faith than anyone else. Faith is the revolutionaries' lifeline.

Loyalty to the leader should become a firm loyalty which does not budge in the face of all kinds of wind and does not change according to the current trend. To this end, the people should make loyalty a faith without fail.

Loyalty to the leader, which becomes faith, is a firm confidence in the leader's greatness. This is also an absolute belief in the victory of his wise leadership. This is a death-defying obligation and will, with which the people devote everything to battle for the leader's cause.

The revolutionaries, whose loyalty turns to faith, always firmly believe the leader to be the defender of their fate and the pillar of their minds. They should truly uphold the leader. They unanimously come to share their fate with the leader to the end, regardless of good and bad times. These people can never change and act according to the current trend.

Loyalty to the leader should become a way of thinking. Only when loyalty becomes a faith and a part of one's conscience at the same time can it become true and earnest. That loyalty becomes a part of one's conscience means deeply cherishing a clean mind to truly uphold the leader anytime and anywhere, without any selfishness.

The genuine revolutionaries and people cannot deceive and abandon their consciences. These consciences entail a mindset to lead a genuine life for society, groups, fatherland, and revolution, proceeding from high consciousness, not from selfishness and desire for fame. Conscience plays an important role in leading the people to enjoy their lives worthy of the people.

The people regard their conscience as a mirror. They see all their acts through a mirror of conscience and thus try to lead a life not contrary to their conscience.

Those people carrying out the revolution are revolutionaries with very clean consciences. Only when they do an act conforming to the interests of the revolution can they take pride. But when act contrary to the revolution, they never fail to have the pangs of regret, even though other people do not know the act.

When the people make loyalty to the leader a compunction, they can truly uphold the leader with high revolutionary consciousness. Only then can they be loyal to the leader. Loyalty which becomes a compunction is a clear mind that first thinks of the leader anytime and anywhere. This is a clear mind to genuinely uphold the leader. In addition, loyalty is a high revolutionary consciousness, living and working only according to the leader's intent, without desiring any praise and pay.

There can be a flaw in a precious stone. There cannot be a little flaw in the ideology and spirit of revolutionaries trying to be loyal and observe filial duty to the leader and still maintain a clean conscience.

Loyalty to the leader should become a rule. Revolutionaries are genuine people who are more acquainted with morality and fidelity than anyone else. Revolutionaries should make it a rule of faith, conscience, and morality to be loyal to the leader.

That loyalty becomes a rule is to acquire a noble allegiance to reward the leader's benevolence to the end. This also means upholding the leader as the benefactor and father. Morality is a social customary practice that the people should consciously maintain in their relations with other people, groups, and society.

Morality is maintained through a high conscience and noble truth, not through external forces and control. This is morality's basic character.

Originally, there should exist noble and moral relations as well as relations of allegiance among the leader and the soldiers in the road of carrying out the revolution. The relations are as good as the relations between parents, giving life to and caring for their children, and their children receiving life and enjoying a genuine life.

The social and political life, which constitutes the main forces of the revolution, can be said to be a large social family. The large social family, which upholds the leader as their father, is the most harmonious, united, and large revolutionary family which has blood relations with the leader and shares its life with the leader. Each member of the large revolutionary family is a genuine son and daughter of the leader.

Just as sons and daughters follow their parents and uphold their objectives, so should revolutionary fighters uphold and follow the leader who gives them an immortal political life and cares for them. This is a due moral fidelity.

Loyalty, which becomes a way of thinking, entails a clean mind to regard and uphold the leader as the great father and their life's benefactor. This is a noble fidelity, which rewards the leader's love and trust.

Only when loyalty to the leader becomes a rule can it be consolidated as the people's most noblest trait. Only then can the unity of morality and fidelity of the entire society be achieved based on loyalty. The revolutionaries, who have such a spirit, regard the revolutionary fidelity as being the most valuable. Even though they risk their lives, they will never abandon fidelity and faith to the leader.

In addition, loyalty to the leader should become one's life. There is a life in the struggle, and revolutionaries can grow and develop in this life. Loyalty that is not embodied and consolidated in practical struggle and in a rewarding life is indeed useless.

Loyalty should be thoroughly consolidated and embodied in revolutionary practice and daily life, in which are found sacred ideological and spiritual characteristics of revolutionaries. Making loyalty one's life means to consolidate it in daily life and embody it in practical activity.

Revolutionaries' lives have been linked to the leader as one. Revolutionaries have the revolutionary life which has connected with a sublime ideological and spiritual world in giving loyalty and duty to the leader. Apart from the struggle to fulfill the leader's plan and intention, there is no other rewarding and meaningful life.

One should think about how to properly uphold the leader and please and satisfy him even when working, holding meetings, studying, walking, and resting after meals. Only when this is put into practice with one's total might and wisdom can one say that loyalty has become one's life.

Loyalty that has become one's life is a systematized loyalty. A demand of life is to miss the party and the leader with one's whole heart, when asleep, awake, happy, or sad. In addition, this systematized loyalty demands loyalty and duty to the leader every moment.

Only when revolutionaries feel such loyalty, singleheartedness, and firm faith can they continually and constantly wage struggles even when left alone in the mountains or on isolated islands.

The will of revolutionaries who trust in and follow the leader is unshakable. In addition, the life of revolutionaries who try to complete the leader's cause cannot be ended. Loyalty should be consolidated and embodied in life. This is true loyalty. In addition, this will greatly demonstrate the indomitable might of the revolution and construction.

Loyalty has become one's faith, conscience, morality, and life. These facts have been closely connected and united with each other while containing their unique content and characteristic.

Only when one gives loyalty to the leader with faith, keeps it with conscience, consolidates it with morality, and makes it one's life can it becomes consolidated and pure without wavering and selfishness.

The greatness of the ideological theory of the party and its indomitable vitality in making loyalty to the leader one's faith, conscience, morality, and life lie in elucidating the road for revolutionaries to become true chuche-type revolutionaries with endless loyalty to the leader.

2. Only when one makes loyalty to the party and the leader one's faith, conscience, morality, and life can one endlessly glorify honor and dignity as a true chuche-type revolutionary. This is the valuable truth that our revolutionary practice is proving.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, has indicated: Only when loyalty to the leader becomes one's faith, conscience, morality, and life can we call it absolute and unconditional loyalty. This is the valuable conclusion and truth that I have reached through my practical experience.

The Korean liberation, which is recorded in a heroic epitaph and chronicle, is a sacred revolution that has been victoriously advanced by the endless loyalty of revolutionaries who uphold the great leader and his wise leadership.

This revolution is endlessly being glorified because it answers truthfully questions about how revolutionaries can live and struggle.

While carrying out the harsh revolution, the Korean chuche-type revolutionaries have gone through every kind of trial imaginable. In addition, they have experienced everything that they can experience as revolutionaries. In the course of this, they could cherish deep in their hearts the truth of making loyalty to the leader their faith, conscience, morality, and life.

Above all, only when our chuche-type revolutionaries make loyalty to the leader their faith, conscience, morality, and life can they be firmly convinced that endlessly trusting in and highly upholding the leader will become their most truthful and sacred ideology and emotion.

Purity and truthfulness are the first mark of the revolutionary who trusts and follows the leader. Since the revolutionary is the leader's fighter who struggles while totally entrusting his entire fate to the leader, he should not have the slightest inclination to be unfaithful in his work and life. The revolutionary's basic attitude is always to be pure and truthful in serving and upholding the leader. The chuche-type Korean revolutionaries are endlessly passionate and truthful revolutionaries who are ready to do anything and everything as they serve and uphold their leader and devote all their wisdom and energy to it.

It was the chuche-type revolutionaries who gave the respectable name of the sun to the great Comrade Kim Il-song [widaehan kimilsong tongji] in the initial stage of the revolution and sang the song of the star of Korea with all their hearts. It is the chuche-type revolutionaries who endlessly adore and uphold the leader invariably forever as they did in the past. It is the chuche-type revolutionaries and people who praise Comrade Kim Chong-il, calling him the dear leader and upholding him as the great guiding star. The absolute trust in the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] which our people deeply cherish in their hearts and which pours out from them cannot be from any sense of obligation or logical thought.

Our chuche-type revolutionaries' perfectly pure and endlessly truthful minds do not come about of their own accord. It happened because they made loyalty to the leader their faith, conscience, morality, and life. For our people, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il are the great leaders [widaehan yongdoja] of the revolution and peerless great men whom we uphold for the first time in a 1,000-year history. Through a long and arduous struggle our people know deep in their hearts the fundamental significance of having the great leader pioneering their fate and making the fatherland rich and strong, and of the victorious advance of the revolution. Therefore, all thought and practice of chuche-type revolutionaries and the people are consistently directed to how they can give greater joy and satisfaction to the leader [yongdoja] of the revolution and how they can better serve and uphold the leader [suryong].

The simple remark by an elderly woman in Kaesong during the difficult postwar period—We uphold only the leader—reflects our people's consistent feeling, who are determined to trust and follow the party and the leader to the end of the world. It is the perfectly pure mind of our chuche-type revolutionaries to think of the authority of the party and the leader when they work and to overflow with respect and adoration for the leader [yongdoja] when they sing. Because all processes and motives in work and life are consistent with loyalty, there is only truthfulness in the ideological and spiritual world of these revolutionaries, leaving no room for any unfaithfulness. As the practice of the revolution shows, one who is truthful always serves and upholds the leader, but one who is unfaithful pretends to uphold him but seeks personal glory and has his own personal interest at heart.

Truthfulness gives birth to a loyalist, and unfaithfulness gives birth to a traitor. One who is engaged in the revolution should always be pure and truthful in serving and upholding the leader. For this, one should make loyalty one's faith, conscience, morality, and life. Our chuche-type revolutionaries know that they should make loyalty their faith, conscience, morality, and life through the practice of the revolution so that it may highly develop into the firm and resolute revolutionary spirit of protecting and defending the leader.

Loyalty is highly demonstrated in protecting and defending the leader [yongdoja] of the revolution. In the revolutionary struggle, it is the most honorable and sacred duty to protect and defend the leader. The revolutionary should become a resolute fighter who protects and defends the party and the leader in any adversity. Recalling the arduous history of our revolution, we note that there were quite a few times of difficult trials. During the grave periods when the continuation of the revolution was at stake, the party and the leader were resolutely protected and defended, and the revolution was able to advance victoriously because the loyal revolutionary fighters waged a resolute and devoted struggle. Those who waged such a struggle were the fallen anti-Japanese martyrs who charged at the enemy like human bombs to protect the respected and beloved comrade commander and who cut out their own tongues to keep the secret of the command post; the heroes and fighters who blocked the mouth of the enemy gun, crying out: Long live General Kim Il-song; and the working class of Kangson who upheld the party and the leader with steel, producing 120,000 tons of steel from a 60,000-ton blooming mill.

We cannot find anywhere else the revolutionary who was as brave as an angry lion and who fought like he was invulnerable to protect and defend his leader. It is the firm faith cherished deep in the hearts of the chuche-type revolutionaries that there should never be the slightest tilting or minor concessions when protecting and defending the leader. This firm and resolute revolutionary spirit came from the deep conviction of the Korean communists and people through their actual experience that the leader is their destiny and the life of the Korean revolution.

Because they cherished loyalty as their unshakable faith and fidelity, the chuche-type revolutionaries always applied stern requirements to themselves and demonstrated the noble spirit of sacrifice and devotion to protect and defend the leader. Various difficult and complicated problems arise when revolutionaries carry out revolutionary tasks. The firm position of the chuche-type revolutionaries is that while there can be flexibility in work and in daily life, there should never be any laxity in protecting and defending the leader.

One who has this position does not retreat from the principle even an inch; walking a tightrope and mind-reading in political life are unacceptable to him. The firm and resolute revolutionary spirit with which one is ready to risk one's life to stick to principles can be displayed only by those whose loyalty is ingrained.

The revolution can be carried out by anyone who is resolved to do it, but no heroic exploits can be performed by a momentary physical impulse or casual inclination. The resolute revolutionaries who protected and defended the party during the difficult times were without exception those who were firmly resolved to share their fate with the party in their daily lives. Their exploits and noble ideology show that only those who are steadfast and continuously temper themselves ideologically throughout their lives can protect and defend the party and the leader at the cost of their lives during difficult time.

Our chuche-type revolutionaries came to know deep in their hearts that they should make loyalty to the leader their faith, conscience, morality, and life so that they can share their fate eternally with the leader and so that they can make it the most solid, unchangeable, ideological feeling.

In the course of the advance of the revolution, there can be changes in strategy, tactics, and method of struggle, and there can be trials and vicissitudes in the course of the struggle. However, there should not be any change of mind in the loyalty to serve and uphold the leader. The revolutionary should never change his attitude and position of upholding the party and the leader in peace or in a difficult period but should always trust, follow, and uphold the party and the leader wholeheartedly. It is the unique trait of the Korean chuche-type revolutionaries to uphold the party and the leader consistently without change, keeping their pledge rain or shine. The revolutionary song sung loudly from the bottom of their hearts by the young communists, including Kim Hyok and Cha

Kwang-su, during the pioneering era of our revolution, Let Us Not Change the Pledge We Have Made on the Road of the Revolution Rain or Shine, has become the banner of the struggle which is firmly inherited by the chuche-type communist revolutionaries from generation to generation. That our chuche-type revolutionaries today make the revolutionary's firm faith and clean conscience found in this song the criterion of their life and uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il while singing the song of comradeship clearly proves that their loyalty remains unchanged and consistent.

The loyalty of our chuche-type revolutionaries has firmly continued even after a long time and with the change in environment and conditions, because they waged continuous and conscious struggle to make unwavering ideological feelings inseparable in their lives. For us, the chuche-type revolutionaries, the leader is the great leader of the revolution and the pillar of our mind to which we entrust our entire life and for whom we carry on the struggle. In the revolution, the leader is absolute; if we trust and follow the leader, there is nothing we cannot attain in the world, nor can there be any fortress we cannot occupy. Because we absolutely trust the greatness of the leader, as far as we the chuche-type revolutionaries are concerned, the pillar of our mind is unshakable, and we are not afraid even if the world is overturned.

Loyalty should be invariably cherished not only in adversity but in normal times. The genuine revolutionaries, who upheld the party and the leader [suryong] steadfastly, upheld the leader [suryong] even when the revolution went smoothly and made consistent efforts to discipline themselves ideologically and to cultivate themselves.

Always regarding their loyalty as the first element [chobojogin kot], they glorified every moment of their lives with feats of loyalty by cherishing the warm desire to repay the leader's trust and love.

The reality showed that those who think only of the party and the leader and who constantly ideologically discipline themselves will uphold the leader [yongdoja] without wavering even slightest degree. Thus, they will not be dismissed [totae] politically no matter how much time may elapse.

Those who carry out the revolution want to live their whole lives with purity and die a worthwhile death. However, as history and life show, there were traitors in the ranks unable to overcome difficulties and to repel the enemy's temptation and pressure.

This is because they lacked everyday struggle and conscious and devoted efforts to assume loyalty as their faith, conscience, morality, and principle of life. When one fights by cherishing loyalty as one's first life on the single road of revolution led by the party and the leader, one can have everlasting life, boundless happiness, and glory. This is a precious truth and lesson of life that the chuche-type Korean revolutionaries realized from their struggle while undergoing violent trials and many changes in exciting situations.

This truth is a rule which did not change, does not change, and will never change. The Korean revolution is the history of a glorious struggle which has been embroidered with trust, loyalty, love, and filial piety between the leader and fighters.

With the might of trust, loyalty, love, and filial piety between the leader and fighters, our revolution could break through the flames of the unprecedentedly arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. Our revolution attained a brilliant victory and miracles in building a new fatherland, in the arduous fatherland liberation war, in postwar rehabilitation construction, and in socialist construction, thus infusing admiration into people the world over.

The leader's wise leadership and absolute and unconditional loyalty to the leader are the source of endless strength by which our revolution is pushed ahead. The future of our revolution cannot be changed. Only when all of the people advance by cherishing endless loyalty to the party and the leader and only when they highly uphold the great leader and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il can all victories be decisively guaranteed and will the Korean revolution have a bright future.

When all party members and workers advance by assuming loyalty to the leader as their faith, conscience, morality, and principle of life, will our party demonstrate lofty authority and honor as the party with indomitable strength which will not waver no matter how fierce the wind may blow. Thus, our people will be an heroic people, fighting tenaciously without even the slightest degree of wavering when confronting a strong enemy.

There cannot be any person who is called a perfect revolutionary. To endlessly glorify the honor of a chuche-type revolutionary who cherishes loyalty which has turned into his faith, his conscience, his morality, and the principle of his life, one should constantly discipline and cultivate oneself in a revolutionary manner.

Metal can be steel only in a super-hot furnace and trees can bloom with beautiful flowers only when grown in a field under the rain and wind. Likewise, a man can grow and develop into a genuine revolutionary in the course of gigantic struggle by overcoming grave trials.

Just as a jewel shines only when it is polished, past merits and exploits can be glorious only through the devoted struggle to render loyalty to the leader [suryong].

The ideological and mental world of a revolutionary can be more beautiful and noble in the course of constant revolutionary discipline and conscious cultivation to make his ideas and intentions accord with the leader's and to share destiny.

Because dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of the revolution, embracing all of our revolutionary fighters in his bosom, is fostering and leading them to be genuine revolutionaries, all of us can endlessly glorify the honor of chuche-type revolutionaries by cherishing loyalty to the party and the leader as the first life and by perfecting our revolutionary traits.

We will loyally fight only along the victorious and glorious road indicated by the party by entrusting the great leader and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il with all of our destinies.

This is a firm, iron-clad pledge, which the WPK members and all the people made.

South Korea

No Urges North To Remove Relation 'Obstacles'

SK1003005792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Chinhae, South Korea, March 9 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u called Monday [9 March] on North Korea to "immediately remove" all obstacles, including the nuclear problem, that hinder progress in inter-Korean relations.

Addressing the 46th commencement ceremony at the Korea Naval Academy, No said North Korea's failure to resolve the nuclear issue would aggravate its isolation from the international community and plunge inter-Korean relations into a difficult situation.

"By entering the United Nations and effectuating agreements on basic relations, South and North Korea have opened the door to peaceful reunification based on the great will of the people and have embarked on a long voyage toward reconciliation and reunification," he said.

Delegates Fail To Agree on Nuclear Issue

SK1003054592 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] North and South Korea held their sixth delegates' contact on the nuclear issue this morning at Tongilgak, on the northern side of Panmunjom, and discussed the formation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and trial inspection. They failed to reach an agreement, however.

In today's contact, our side denounced the North Korean side's attitude in the previous contacts and demanded that the Joint Nuclear Control Committee be formed as scheduled and that a mutual nuclear inspection be conducted in a month after that. Our side warned North Korea that if it continuously rejects nuclear inspection and if the Joint Nuclear Control Committee cannot be formed before the set deadline, this will adversely affect overall North-South relations.

In today's contact, the North Korean side reiterated its previous position that it would receive international nuclear inspection in early June after deliberations at the Supreme People's Assembly on 8 April. It also rejected our proposal that a deadline for nuclear inspection be set in inspection regulations.

The two sides agreed to continue negotiations at the seventh contact on 14 March at the House of Peace on our side of Panmunjom.

Poll Conducted on North's Nuclear Development

SK1003043892 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 92 p2

[Text] On 3 March the CHOSON ILBO and the Korea Gallop Research Institute jointly conducted a public opinion telephone poll on North Korea's nuclear development involving 527 persons, males and females age 20 and above, throughout the country except for Cheju Province.

The results of the poll revealed that the majority of our people believe that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons and that North Korea' nuclear weapons will have a bad effect on peace on the Korean peninsula. It was the dominant opinion of the pollees that North Korea has no intention to receive international nuclear inspection. On the question of "attacking and destroying North Korea's nuclear facilities" in case it continues to persistently adhere to nuclear development, the pollees' opinions vary.

On the question, "Do you think North Korea possesses nuclear weapons?," 74.4 percent of the pollees said "yes" and 11.1 percent said "no."

On the question, "Do you think that if North Korea possesses nuclear weapons, they will pose a great threat on the Korean peninsula?," 81.8 percent of the pollees said "yes," and only 13.4 percent of the pollees said "no." Of those pollees who said "no," 22.3 percent were people in their twenties and around 10 percent were from different age groups.

On the question, "Do you think North Korea will accept nuclear inspections?," 51.3 percent of the pollees said "no" and 27.6 percent said "yes." Thus, the number of pollees saying "no" was much more than those saying "yes."

In recent months foreign newspapers have frequently reported world opinion which says that if and when North Korea refuses to accept inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is imperative to attack and destroy North Korea's nuclear weapon manufacturing facilties by force.

Our people's reactions to the question of destroying North Korea's nuclear facilities by force varied: 44.8 percent of the pollees expressed approval while 42.0 percent expressed disapproval. By age group, among the young pollees in their twenties, 36.0 percent expressed approval and 53.2 percent expressed disapproval.

The reactions of "approve" and "disapprove" to the question of destroying North Korea's nuclear facilities by force of arms among those pollees in their thirties and fourties were about the same.

However, in the pollees in their fifties and above, 55.8 percent answered "approve" and 24.1 percent said "disapprove," thus, revealing that the number of those who "approve" was much greater than those who "disapprove" in these age groups. Among college-educated pollees, including college students, 63.7 percent said they "disapprove" and 27.5 percent answered "approve." Thus, the number saying "disapprove" was much higher than those who said "approve."

On the question, "What do you think of the fact that our government has unilaterally removed nuclear weapons from South Korea," 44.7 percent of the pollees said "they should not have been so hasty," and 39.3 percent said "it was good to have withdrawn nuclear weapons from South Korea."

On the question, "What do you think of our government's recent decision to shelve economic cooperation with North Korea and to withhold Daewoo Business Group's business activity in North Korea until North Korea accepts nuclear inspections," 49.0 percent of the pollees said it was a "good decision" and 33.0 percent said it was a "wrong decision." Thus, those pollees who said "good decision" were much more than those who said "wrong decision."

The current poll was conducted throughout the country except Cheju province, and the pollees consisted of 260 males and 267 females. By age group, there were 161 pollees in their twenties, 141 in their thirties, 91 in their fourties, 134 were in their fifties and above.

There were 107 pollees with a primary school education; 83 had a middle school education; 207 had a high school education, 130 had a college level education, including college students.

Occupations of the pollees included farmers and fisherman (61), businessmen (63), blue color workers (54), white color office workers (90), housewives (175), students (40), and others (45).

By province the pollees were as follows: 130 from Seoul, 97 from Kyonggi province, 17 from Kangwon province, 58 from North and South Chungchong provinces, 71 from North and South Cholla provinces, 67 from North Kyongsang province, and 86 from South Kyongsang province.

Government Stance Slows Ventures in North

SK0603064092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0442 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—The drive by South Korean firms to accelerate economic cooperation with North Korea is likely to slow down due to the government's move to link it with the North's nuclear arms development, industry sources said Friday [6 March].

The sources said the Daewoo Group, whose owner Kim U-chung's recent visit to Pyongyang boosted the South Korean zeal for economic exchanges with the North, was being forced to revise its plan to send more than 20 officials to the North for a feasibility study.

Daewoo filed an application with the National Unification Board on Feb. 19 for the dispatch of the team to conduct the feasibility study for an inter-Korean joint venture in the northern port of Nampo.

The team was to go to North Korea in mid-February and ground was to be broken in March for the construction of a factory producing dress shirts for men and blouses in May. Factories for six other items were to be built by September.

A Daewoo spokesman said his group would not drop the plan even though the government's approval was delayed.

"As far as I know, there was no instruction from the government to reserve or suspend it. For now, we wonder if we can produce the planned items this year," he said.

The Lucky-Goldstar Group will have to readjust its plan for cooperation with North Korea, a group official said. The group succeeded in direct deals with North Korea twice and received a northern offer of a 200 million-U.S.-dollar investment in the petrochemical industry, he said.

Lucky-Goldstar would continue deals with North Korea via third countries, but this year's trade volume was not likely to surpass last year's level of 60 million U.S. dollars, the official said.

An official of another business conglomerate said his group was receiving numerous calls for advice from subcontractors and textile and bag makers in the Pusan area on advancement into North Korea.

"We find it very difficult and confusing to answer them because what we hear from one government authority to another differs," the official said.

Another official said not only large firms but also small- and medium-sized companies were keenly interested in making inroads into North Korea.

The firms face language barriers and cultural problems in other countries, but in North Korea they can be free from such troubles, he said.

He said the government should promptly present a unified stance on economic cooperation with North Korea.

North To Allow South Citizens To Visit, Tour

SK0903131892 Seoul YONHAP in English
1219 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean citizens will be allowed to make tours of Mts. Kumgang and Paektu starting from May 1 this year if they join package tours to be arranged by Kumgangsan Tourist Co., North Korea's sole external tourism window, the company announced in a press conference in Tokyo Monday [9 March].

Press reports from Tokyo quoted Pak Kyong-yun, president of the tourist company, as saying five South Korean tour agents—Hanjoo, Lotte, Seil, Hanjin and Chonji—will be commissioned to promote the North-bound tours in South Korea.

Pak said her company will act for the South Koreans to obtain North Korean visas if their applications are filed through the local agents.

She said her company was considering two different ways of transporting the South Korean tourists, one using chartered flights leaving Nagoya or Niigata in Japan and the other a seaborne route linking South Korea's Sokcho with North Korea's Wonsan.

The first group of North Korea-bound tourists among pro-Seoul Korean residents in Japan will leave Nagoya aboard a chartered flight on April 12, Pak said.

Governments Must Agree on Visits

SK0903132592 Seoul YONHAP in English
1310 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—South Koreans' visits to North Korea for sight-seeing purpose would be possible only after such visits are agreed on between the government authorities of the two sides, a government official here said Monday [9 March] afternoon.

The official from the National Unification Board made the remarks in his comment on the reported statement made by a North Korean business representative in Tokyo earlier in the day to the effect that North Korea would allow South Korean tourists to visit the Paektu and Kumgang Mountains beginning May.

"We have never received such a proposal from North Korea," the official said. "If the people of the two sides were to make sight-seeing visits to each other's areas, the issue should first be discussed at the Exchanges and Cooperation Subcommittee to be formed under the basic South-North agreement, and in addition an institutional apparatus should be prepared to facilitate such tours."

The official added, "our government policy now is not to allow full-fledged economic or ordinary people's exchanges with North Korea unless the North's nuclear issue is resolved satisfactorily."

No Tae-u Government Achievements Reported

SK1003013192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 92 p 8

[From the "News in Review" column by deputy economic editor Pak Chang-sok: "Economic Fiasco Drives No's Party Into Corner in Elections]

[Text] Is Korea stepping forward or backward? A KBS anchorman asked the justice minister on a Sunday morning talk show program. Apparently sensible of what has been happening these days, he went on to say, "Everything seems to be going backward." Such a question seems not to be confined to himself alone but is probably being asked by all.

Signs of development are nowhere to be seen. Corruption, unlawfulness, disorder, and decadence are now rampant in every corner of national life. Such unwelcome social phenomena, critics say, is the result of the let-it-be policies pursued by the No Tae-u administration for the last four years.

The general elections are two weeks away. Election campaigns are in full swing. Both National Assembly candidates and voters are mad as hell. Free lunches, free tours, and the handing out of gifts are everywhere being used to buy votes from wavering voters. Pictures of voters stretching out their hands in a desperate struggle to get gifts appear in newspapers everyday, despite the government's vow to make the coming elections clean and fair.

In the public eye, the government party seems to have not much of a menu to brag about to voters during the campaigning period. Nonetheless, the ruling party is vowing to focus its campaign business on "achievements" in three sectors, democratization, northern policy, and the taming of real estate speculation. The opposition parties are on the offensive over economic failure.

Ahead of the two crucial general and presidential elections, scheduled for March 24 and the year-end, respectively, there is the need for an extensive review of No's exploits.

First of all, let us talk about the democratization. In the past several years, the world has undergone a dramatic change. Decades-long cold war era was put to an end due to the collapse of the former Soviet Union. All East European countries have transformed from their socialist or authoritarian systems to democratic ones. Korea is no exception. Accordingly, democratization in Korea can be said to be the result of changes in the world's political structure, not the achievement of specific figure. It is true that democratization has come in some sectors of society. But, on the whole, today's Korea is a far cry from democracy.

Representative of the undemocratic features of the latest political developments is the fact that President No handpicked figures close to him by blood and regional affiliations as National Assembly candidates. Political pressure has been mounting, bullying some celebrities out of the running or campaigning for the elections in order to turn the tide in the governing party's favor. Of particular public concern is the fact that a fourth of the candidates for national constituency seats under the proportional representation system are figures having close regional connections with No.

The listing surely runs counter to the original purpose of the national constituency system, which was introduced to give the National Assembly a broader function of representing different vocations, specialized skills and know-how about society.

To put it succinctly, the massive selection of No's aides seems to be directed toward the firming up of the political basis for his survival, both for the less-than-one year remainder of his term and after his stepping down.

Another thing the No administration boasts of is the northern policy. It is true that the No administration has established diplomatic relations with many socialist countries including the former Soviet Union. But what has to be pointed out clearly is the fact that Korea's improvement of ties with socialist countries was due to the East-West political detente after Gorbachev's rise to power.

More pitiful is the lack of substantial benefit from the establishment of official links with the socialist countries. Contrary to the wide-spread public expectations, the setup of diplomatic ties with the socialist countries has yet contributed little to ameliorating relations with North Korea. South and North Korea recently signed what government officials call a "historic agreement" on cooperation and exchange. But, there is not a single element of this agreement now being translated into action by the Northern side. Apparently as a result of a hasty judgment, the southern side announced it would scale down the annual ROK-U.S. combined military exercise, "Team Spirit." The inter-Korean agreement is still on paper and obviously nothing but a copy of the July 4, 1972, Inter-Korean Joint Communique which has already become a dead letter.

The much-talked-about economic cooperation with the North has been deadlocked as a result of the political chill with the Northern side's refusal to abandon nuclear arms development. The establishment of relations with the socialist countries has rather served to widen the trade deficit. According to a tally, Korea's trade shortfall with the former Soviet Union, China, and other erstwhile East European countries rose four-fold to 2 billion dollars last year.

Real estate policy has been one of the worst examples of maladministration by the Sixth Republic government. Prices of land and housing rentals have skyrocketed almost three-fold since 1988.

The country is being cornered by untold economic troubles with inflation galloping and trade deficit rising. Price rises are hovering at 10 percent, the annual deficit in the balance of international payments is near 10 billion dollars, and foreign debts are topping a record 50 billion dollars—enough to make Korea a great debtor power. The economic fiasco will no doubt handicap the governing party in the coming elections.

DP Names National Representation Candidates

SK0903135492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1231 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party [DP] Monday selected 24 candidates under national representation who are in a priority range considered safe for them to get elected.

The 24 included eight fresh recruits, many of them retired generals, another eight who contributed political funds to the party, and eight party secretariat officials.

The party is expected to choose 26 other candidates of a "reserve" nature by Monday morning.

Sixteen of the 24 were those recommended by the "New Democratic Party" faction led by Kim Tae-chung and the remaining six were endorsed by the "Democratic Party" faction controlled by Co-Chairman Yi Ki-taek.

The list of the 24 on the priority order was:

1. Kim Tae-chung, party co-chairman, 2. Yi Ki-taek, co-chairman, 3. Kang Chang-song, ex-defense security commander, 4. Chang Chae-sik, ex-housing bank chief, 5. Yi U-chong, senior party supreme member, 6. Na Pyong-son, ex-Army 6th Corps commander, 7. Rep. Sin Chin-uk, 8. Kim Ok-chon, Mudung Tourist Hotel Head, 9. Chang Chun-ik, ex-Military Academy chief, 10. Kim Chong-su, head of Automobile Maintenance Association, 11. Kuk Chong-nam, Taeil Film Co. head, 12. Kim Chung-hyon, businessman, 13. Kang Hui-chan, Samyang Industrial Co. head, 14. Pak Chong-hun, ex-Daewoo executive, 15. Pak Il, party national convention co-chairman, 16. Kim Ok-tu, ex-party deputy secretary general, 17. Pak Un-tae, Mijoo Industrial Co. chairman, 18. Chang Ki-uk, party Disciplines Committee head, 19. Yang Mun-hui, Medical Association vice chairman, 20. Kim Mal-yong, ex-supreme member, 21. Pak Chi-won, ex-party External Cooperation Committee vice chairman, 22. Yi Chang-hui, special assistant to party chairman, 23. Chin Namgung, party General Affairs Bureau chief, 24. Pae Ki-son, Party Affairs Planning Office deputy head.

UNP Announces National Constituency Candidates

SK1003033092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0312 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—Hyundai group founder Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party (UNP) announced Tuesday 32 national constituency candidates for the March 24 general elections.

Mun Chang-mo, a former director of severance hospital and a close confidante of party executive chairman Chong, got the top spot. Yang Sun-chik, a party adviser, came second, followed by Chong himself.

Cho Yun-hyong, chief of the UNP election management headquarters, was fourth, followed by actor Choe Pulam.

Rounding out the top 10 were retired Army Gen. Yi Kun-yong, no. 6: Chong Chang-hyon, special assistant to Chong, no. 7: Kang Pu-cha, an actress, no. 8: No Pyongtuk, vice superintendent of Sungkyungwan, no. 9: and No. 10, party legal adviser Kang Tal-su.

Party secretary-general Yi Yong-chun, Spokesman Yi In-won, chief secretary Yi Pyong-kyu, Yun Ha-yon and party adviser Pak No-kyong took spots no. 11 to 15.

Comedian Yi Chu-il registered to run in the Kuri constituency in Kyonggi Province Tuesday on the UNP ticket. Yi, who left the country weeks ago amid rumors that he was pressured not to run and then returned home a few days later with a vow that he would remain an entertainer, appeared at the Kuri election management office with leading party members to register.

"I was not planning to enter the political scene but the people of Kuri encouraged me to run with telephone calls and letters," Yi said. "Now that I have decided to run, I will show them something."

Party head Chong said he would personally see to the operation of the Kuri chapter office for Yi.

Final Tally of Candidates for General Elections

SK1003133192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1152 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—A total of 1,052 people registered their candidacy in the upcoming general elections at 237 constituencies across the country by the registration deadline of 5 P.M. Tuesday.

They are vying for 237 floor seats available under the regional representation system, showing a 4.44-to-1 competition ratio. The rate compares with the 4.7-to-1 ratio registered in the previous general elections.

A compilation made by the Central Election Management Committee showed that the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] put up candidates at all the 237 electoral districts while opposition Democratic Party [DP] candidates registered at 225 constituencies.

The new-born Unification National Party nominated 189 candidates, New Politics (Shinjong) Party 111 and the Masses (Minjung) Party 52.

Independent candidates numbered 226 or 21.5 percent of the total. The figure represents more than twice as many as the independent runners in the previous elections.

The area that registered the highest ratio was the city of Taejon where 31 people run for five seats at stake. The lowest ratio, 3 to 1, was showed in Cheju Island.

In addition to the 1,052 candidates under regional representation, five political parties registered 154 candidates with the Central Election Management Committee under national representation. The floor seats available under the national system total 62.

The total candidates under national representation included 54 nominated by the DLP, 50 by the DP, 32 by the National Party and 14 by the New Politics Party.

The 62 seats are allotted to political parties in proportion to the seats they garnered under the regional representation system except that one seat is given to a party that earned less than five seats but the total votes it gained represented at least 3 percent of the total votes cast.

Ruling, Opposition Parties Hold Rallies

SK0903234592 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 9 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Ruling and opposition parties appealed for "stability" and "restraint" respectively in their speech rallies held on 8 March for the first time in 20 years and launched a full-scale campaign. The three parties including the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Democratic Party, and Unification National Party [UNP] held outdoor rallies where several thousands gathered in North Kyongsang Province and Kyonggi Province. They delivered speeches pertaining to their party policies. Thus, they waged a fierce offensive and defensive battle.

Both ruling and opposition parties are attempting to forestall the others at an early stage through the rallies which will be held throughout this week. It seems that political pledges and mutual slander and defamation by each party against the others will be rampant.

In particular, the ruling and opposition parties will compete with each other even in mobilizing an audience. There is a great possibility they may distribute money in order to gather people, thus kicking off a commotion as to judicial right and wrong concerning their acts.

At the rallies in Chomchon-Mungyong district and Andong City and county in North Kyongsang Province, Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the DLP, stressed that "if the restraining forces are increased on a party which can lead the nation's political system in a stable manner, only disorder will rampage. The DLP is the only party which can effect an upsurge in the national economy and stably lead the next regime."

Executive chairman Kim also pointed out that the greatest impending task facing his party is to "lay a foundation for effecting another economic harvest, and for this, political stability must be achieved." Thus, he petitioned the people to support the DLP.

At the rallies held in Puchon, Kanghwa and Kimpo in Kyonggi Province, Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, co-chairmen of the Democratic Party, criticized the economic mismanagement of the Sixth Republic and stressed the need for restraining the enormous ruling party.

Party chairman Kim said that "the main cause of aggravation in all domains of our society was the integration of the three parties which betrayed democracy." He emphasized that "only when the numbers of assembly seats of the ruling and opposition parties are about equal, can the state administration be operated on a stable foundation."

Party chairman Kim also stressed that "exclusive domination of a certain area by the DLP, which is scheming to continue the TK [Taegu and North Kyongsang Province] faction's rule, should be brought to an end."

Party chairman Yi Ki-taek maintained that "unless a powerful opposition party is developed in the upcoming general elections, the No Tae-u regime will again spoil national administration through disputes between presidential candidates attempting to seize power."

At a rally in Inchon-Anyang district, Chong Chu-yong, representative of the UNP, harshly criticized the high prices of commodities and the trade deficit accumulation, and said that by taking advantage of his experiences in devotedly working for the nation's modernization, he will rectify the chains of erroneous policies without fail.

Voters Give 'Cool Reception' to Kim Yong-sam

SK1003021092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[Text] Andong, Kyongsangpukto [North Kyongsang Province]—The initial outdoor rallies organized by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] took place in a somewhat subdued atmosphere due to the voters' cool reception to the party's efforts to rouse support.

Party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam tried to boost his status as the DLP's front runner for its presidential nomination during a tour through Taegu and Kyongbuk [T-K] provinces which are the main power bases of the ruling camp.

His message at each stop was the same. He told the people he was ready to tackle a more important position and appealed for support of DLP candidates.

Party candidates in the so-called T-K area turned out in force to demonstrate their loyalty to Kim at each of his stops.

In an outdoor rally at Pungsan in Kyongsangpukto, Rep. Yu Ton-u touted Kim as the only one capable of leading the people of South and North Korea.

Other candidates also heaped praise on him saying "Kim is the only one who can head the 7th Republic."

The party had several "orators" to try to heighten the campaign mood before the executive chairman and the candidates took to the rostrum.

A political observer said the people in the area do not have any real emotional attachment toward the executive chairman. They just have no alternative to Kim as the possible presidential contender against Kim Tae-chung whose power base is in the rival south-western region of the country.

In an outdoor rally in front of the Chomchon Railroad Station, about 3,000 people gathered, most of whom were senior citizens. Rep. Sin Yong-kuk is running in the district.

Around the rally site people who support independent candidate Yi Sung-mu who was not nominated by the party, attempted to divert the attention of those in attendance by distributing pamphlets containing Yi's ideas for development of the region.

The stumping rally in Andong elementary school in Andong city attracted more than 5,000.

National Assembly Campaign in 'Full Swing'

SK1003021192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] **The National Assembly election campaign has gotten into full swing across the nation but the voters' reaction is still cool with signs that many voters remain.**

The rival parties are all out to drum up support by organizing separate "speech rallies" which have been revived after a 20 year absence.

The ruling Democratic Liberal party [DLP] and the major opposition Democratic Party [DP] yesterday canvassed the Chungchong and Kyongsang provinces, while the Unification National Party [UNP] was on the campaign trail in Kangwon province.

On the Sunday, the DLP sponsored rallies in Chomchon, Andong and Uisong, Kyongsangpuk-to, the DP in Puchon on the outskirts of Seoul and the UNP in Anyang, Kyonggi-to.

They attracted crowds of between 3,000 and 10,000, far short of the expectations of the organizers.

Many in the throng at the rallies were apparently "mobilized" by organizers, who were eager to show off their power.

The parties were desperate to take the wind from their rivals' sails but proved that they had not enough issues and policies to win the hearts of undecided voters.

DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam yesterday made a campaign tour of Sosan, Chongyang, Onyang, Yonki and Kumsan.

He appealed for DLP nominee support, saying, "Without the merger of three parties into the DLP two years ago, the social chaos might have continued under an opposition-dominated National Assembly."

He hinted at his political ambitions to become the DLP's presidential nominee, saying "If you want to assign me an important role in the future, please cast your votes for the DLP candidates."

DLP co-chairman Kim Chong-pil visited Koyang and Uijongbu, Kyonggi-to, and another co-chairman Pak Tae-chun toured Namhae and Hamyang, Kyongsangnam-to.

DP co-chairman Kim Tae-chung yesterday canvassed Tangjin, Sosan, Tae-chon and Puyo in Chungchongnam-to.

He called for support for his party, stressing the need for a "big and strong" opposition to check the ruling camp.

He said, "The politicians who were elected on opposition party tickets but later joined the ruling party should be punished through your votes this time."

Meanwhile, UNP president Chong Chu-yong tried to drum up support in Wonju, Kangwon-to, by lashing out at the No Tae-u government. He said "We are fighting a nation-saying struggle against the No administration which plunged the country into an abyss of corruption."

He added, "In fear of vehement support for our party, the ruling camp is exercising state power to undermine our organization in flagrant violation of the law and rules of democracy."

Chong Chu-yong Discloses 'National Secret'

SK0703122992 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 6 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] On 5 March Chong Chu-yong, representative of the Unification National Party [UNP], made statements about an unconfirmed national secret. He said that "when the United States was building nuclear bomb storehouses in the ROK in the past, the Hyundai Construction Company took charge of the project," thus giving birth to hot public criticism.

Invited to a bull session arranged by the Korea Human Development Research Institute at the Lotte Hotel on the morning of 5 March, party representative Chong attacked the mismanagement of the Sixth Republic government by stating that "the previous governments invited offers of competitive bidding for secret project to build nuclear bomb storage spaces in tunnels deep in the mountain, but the incumbent government makes private contracts in order to receive political funds."

Party representative Chong made these remarks in public about unconfirmed national secrets, including the nuclear issue, without confirming their truth. He appeared simply to be engrossed with a political offensive, and thus create problems. The relevant officials pointed out that even if his remarks were true, he would be charged with "leaking national secrets"; if his remarks proved to be false, he would be charged with the "crime of spreading false statements" pertaining to national secrets.

After party representative Chong made these remarks, UNP officials told reporters and newspaper companies that "they would like to cancel these remarks" and asked that they not publicize what Chong's said.

In addition, party representative Chong also attacked the Samsung Group by saying "the Samsung Group thoroughly represses its trade unions, but it blocks their reaction with high wages." The UNP spokesman asked the press to cancel these remarks, too.

Representative Chong said at the session that he is worried about President No Tae-u's going to Paektam Temple just like former President Chon tu-hwan. He added that his party will not pay attention to worthless persons. He thus made slanderous, defamatory remarks without hesitation about the head of state.

An official of the judicial authorities said that Chong's public remarks defiling the president could be a judicial issue. He suggested that the crime of defiling the head of state can be applied to Chong's remarks.

Student Activists Plan Election Strategies

SK0503012892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 5 Mar 92 p 3

[Article by staff reporter Ko Chik-man: "Student Activists at Campaign Front"]

[Text] Student activists in the nation's major universities, determined to achieve "people's power," have vowed to launch a massive campaign to support opposition and dissident candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

According to the Education Ministry's estimation, student leaders in 28 universities in Seoul and other big cities have already organized task forces to help elect candidates sympathetic with the pro-democracy movement.

They also plan to embark on a "no-vote" campaign to boycott ruling party candidates.

The full-fledged election campaign by student activists, analysts say, may pose a grave challenge to the ruling camp and the conservative opposition side in case citizens show sympathy to their cause.

Previously, student activists had been somewhat apolitical or inactive to organize their power in cooperation with politicians advocating the progressive social and political reform in Korea.

In the local assembly elections held last year, the majority of students either boycotted the poll or showed little interest to join forces with dissent forces.

The analysts predict the nation's one million campus population, if organized with an antigovernment slogan, will help reform-seeking politicians to be seated at the National Assembly.

Currently, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the largest opposition Democratic Party have most of the National Assembly seats. Such a progressive party as the Minjung (People's) Party has yet to achieve a single seat in the Assembly, not to mention the national alliance of dissidents.

The strong solidarity between student activists and progressive politicians, analysts say, may cause a grave concern to the conservative opposition parties.

In case of Seoul National University, student leaders are divided into two camps—one for pro-Minjung Party and the other for Kim Tae-chung's Democratic Party.

Pro-Minjung Party students are classified as those advocating the People's Democracy (PD) theory, a left ideology based on the orthodox Marx-Leninism, analysts say.

The other group dominating the nation's largest student activist alliance Chondaehyop follow the theory of National Liberation (NL), a new breed of left ideology under the strong influence of North Korean leader Kim Il-song's "Chuche Thought."

Student leaders at Yonsei and Korea Universities also declared their support for Minjung Party candidates.

Besides the three major campuses, PD liners have formed election campaign camps for the Minjung Party in 16 other schools. NL groups succeeded in organizing themselves in only four schools.

In six schools, PD and NL supporters compromised to team up to launch no-vote campaigns against ruling party candidates.

Chondaehyop or the National Council of Student Representatives also joined forces with dissident camps to start no-vote campaigns not to give the ruling party a majority.

According to Chondaehyop's guideline for election campaign, student activists will show apparent attitude of "defiance" toward the ruling party candidates at stumping rally sites by turning back while listing to DLP candidates' speeches or causing buzz and whistling.

Police Arrest Suspects for Illegal Campaigning

SK1003011892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—A total of 366 people had been caught for their involvements in suspected illegal campaigning activities across the country as of Saturday, the National Police Administration said Monday.

Of the total, which includes 151 candidates, 24 were arrested and 41 booked without detention. Seventeen people were referred to summary court for minor offenses, 255 are still under investigation and 29 have been released, it was said.

The total comprises 45 members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, 73 members of the Democratic Party, 47 of the Unification National Party, 24 of the Minjung Party, 56 Independents and 121 others. Election day is March 24.

Publication and distribution of printed materials topped the reasons for the police action with 171, followed by 46 for bribery, 45 for postering and placarding, and 31 for meal services.

Businesses Promise To Limit Political Funds

SK1003030692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) and other business organizations have reaffirmed that they will not collect and distribute funds for political parties for the parliamentary elections, financial and business sources said Tuesday.

The reaffirmation was made in a meeting Monday of chairmen of the country's five leading business groups and five economic and business organizations, the sources said. FKI made a similar announcement on Jan. 4.

The sources said the business leaders realized, however, that it would be difficult for them not to contribute any political funds this year and they were, therefore, considering assigning certain amounts to groups and letting them pay it individually.

FKI chairman Yu Chang-sun and other "business elders" are holding a series of unofficial meetings to decide on the amount to be allocated to the country's 30 leading business groups, the sources said.

The official political contribution for the parliamentary elections is expected to be about 5 billion won, or a similar amount to that contributed for last year's local elections, the sources said.

Police Deny Politically-Motivated Wiretapping

SK1003014392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Police Wiretapping in Ulsan"]

[Text] Controversy has flared over police wiretapping in Ulsan, discovered last week by reporters and admitted by the police station chief. The police official contended, however, that the wiretapping at a telephone exchange office was never a politically-intended bugging as alleged by the Unification National Party.

The opposition party claimed the eavesdropping was aimed at political surveillance and suppression of the newly-launched party and its campaign for the March 24 National Assembly elections in one of the constituencies it is favored in.

Though police explained that the wiretapping was ordered in connection with the murder of a woman of Feb. 11 in the area, the police activity, in absence of due process, is tantamount to a flagrant infringement of the secrecy of correspondence and citizens' privacy guaranteed by the constitution.

Even if the wiretapping was conducted as part of a criminal investigation, police authorities have to specify the legal grounds and provisions, if any, to justify their action. Strict conditions are set for lawful wiretapping by law enforcement authorities for the purpose of chasing criminals.

Any form of bugging in connection with campaigning of any candidate is intolerable in a democratic society. Such undemocratic and unconstitutional practices as political wiretapping ought to be discontinued once and for all by the administration of President No Tae-u which as chosen the elimination of all authoritarian political surveillance as its primary task.

Education Ministry Reports Fewer Demonstrations

SK0903023392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The number of demonstrations by university students dwindled sharply last year, thanks mainly to the collapse of communism and rapprochement between South and North Korea.

According to statistics compiled by the Education Ministry, the number of demonstrations and sit-in protests in the second semester (from September 1991 to February 1992) was 225, down from 749 in the same period a year earlier.

The number of students taking part in demonstrations dropped from 134,000 to 37,000 in the same period, the ministry said Monday [9 March].

The degree of violence declined as well, the ministry said, with firebombs tossed by demonstrators on a mere 58 occasions, down from 303. Demonstrators threw rocks 58 times, down sharply from 309, and destroyed furniture and other facilities five times, down from 13, it said.

Finance Official Reports Gradual Liberalization

SK0803015492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Mar 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] Korea's pace of financial liberalization will not be as fast as the United States demands but neither as slow or as conservative as Japan's, Assistant Finance Minister Yi Hwang-kyon said yesterday.

Before his departure for Washington today, the chief of the four-member Korean delegation told THE KOREA TIMES that Seoul will speed up the opening of the local financial market within the framework that its economic vitality is not hurt.

Yi said Korea and the United States have few differences in their views of the ultimate goal of fully deregulating the domestic financial market. "Our goal is the same but we have delicate differences over the pace and methods," he said.

The United States, viewing Korea as one of the advanced countries, is pressing Seoul to "change all of our financial systems to the Western style," he said. But when they look into Korea's macro economic data, they cannot say Korea is an industrialized country he said.

Korea's economy has many internal problems and financial liberalization should be made within a framework that does not have a negative effect on the domestic economy, he said.

You cannot press your accelerator to the floor to do 200 km per hour on a road that only allows for 100 km per hour. "But we will try to do at least 110-120 on a road that allows a 100 km per hour speed to modernize the backward domestic financial market," he said.

Even if there are minor risks, Korea should accelerate the pace of financial reform, he said. But too fast an acceleration will invite "accidents," he said.

In the past few decades, the Korean economy has changed a lot. General trading companies have been internationalized significantly but the financial market has been slow in internationalization, he said.

It is necessary for Korea to develop its financial market to back up the real economy, Yi said. But the question is how to harmonize various economic factors, critical international expectations and local resistance to change, he said.

"Even within the government ministries, officials differ over the pace and direction of Korea's financial liberalization," he said. The Economic Planning Board calls for further deregulation but the Trade-Industry Ministry says that Korea's financial reform policy should be made in such a way as not to distort the industrial and trade policy," Yi said.

To reach a consensus, "we have set in motion an inter-ministry task force to liberalize the financial market and the task force, through a series of consultations, has narrowed their delicate differences," Yi said.

In addition, there are a number of lawmakers, professors, economists, financiers and journalists who criticize the government for opening up the financial market too hastily at a time when the economy is not so good, Yi said.

"As our economy grows and external trade expands, it is necessary for Korea to sophisticate its backward financial market," he said. With the current state of Korea's financial market, he said, Korea cannot support the real economy.

Through further market-opening, including additional entry of foreign financial services firms, Korea can stimulate competition in the financial market, Yi said. "Such competition will force Korean financial firms to rationalize management, cut costs, and adopt more state-of-art techniques to survive," he said.

Korea plans to liberalize the financial market not because of the alleged U.S. pressure but for the cause of Korea's own interests, he said.

So far, Korea has been successful in internationalizing the financial market because the reform pace was not so hasty and risky. Korea cannot fully accommodate U.S. demands for complete free market opening but Korea will be more liberal than Japan in speeding up the financial deregulation, he said.

Through bilateral talks, Yi said, Korea has accommodated almost all individual U.S. requests to cement the traditional Korea-U.S. friendship and improve the operating environment for U.S. financial firms doing business in Korea.

The United States has moved one step further and wants a far-reaching timeframe that will fundamentally change Korea's financial system. But Korea cannot be dragged along by U.S. initiatives alone, he said.

"Our pressing concern is how to minimize negative effects in the course of liberalizing the financial market," Yi said.

He said that in Washington, the government will unveil its plan to formulate a three-stage financial liberalization program.

By the end of March, Seoul will formulate the first-stage, short-term plan, which will be put into practice from this year through next year.

By June this year, the second stage mid-term action plan will be made public. It will be implemented from 1994 through 1996.

The third-stage long-term plan will be ready by the end of this year. It will be implemented after 1997.

However, these plans may be partially rescheduled if economic conditions do not warrant them, he said, adding nobody can make exact predictions about the future of economic conditions. This should not be interpreted to mean that Korea may seek devices to avoid financial liberalization, he accented.

"Washington may say the timetable is too conservative but from our point of view, the program is not as slow as Washington may believe," he said.

Ministry To Allow Japanese Securities Branches

SK0403215692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0218 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry said Wednesday it would not let Japanese securities companies open branches in South Korea, but would allow Sanyo, Okasan, Kokusai and Wako to open representative offices this month.

The Japanese Government is expected to reciprocate by approving applications from Korean securities firms Pacific, First, Shinyoung and Hanil to open offices in Japan.

Six Japanese brokers currently have offices in Korea: Nomura, Yamaichi, Daiwa, Nikko and New Japan; and six Korean brokers have offices in Japan: Daishin, Daewoo, Ssangyong, Lucky, Dongsuh and Coryo.

Japanese securities firms, restrained by their own Finance Ministry, are unable to have branches for the time being, the Ministry said.

It plans to permit two British and two U.S. securities houses to open branches in addition to the two already given approval to do so.

Seoul To Buy Nuclear Fuel Through Open Bids

SK0903054692 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 9 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] The government reportedly plans to buy nuclear fuel through international open tenders, rather than negotiated contracts with advanced nations, beginning in 1994.

Previously, the nation tried to ensure a smooth supply by concluding negotiated contracts with advanced nations and nuclear fuel-producing countries, even if prices were higher than on the spot market, officials at the Energy-Resources Ministry said.

In view of the favorable market conditions stemming from oversupply, the government will try to buy nuclear fuels at the lowest prices through open tenders, they said.

Last year Korea bought $81,650,000 worth of nuclear fuels from Australia, Canada and France at an average price of $20 per pound (on an enriched uranium basis), about 2.5 times the $8 per pound quoted on the international spot market.

Consequently, the ministry intends to buy all future fuel needed for new nuclear power units and for the termination of the existing purchase contracts only through international open tenders.

The spot price for enriched uranium began declining early last year to $7.25 per in October, and rebounded slightly to $8.50 per lb toward the end of the year, but began dropping again this year.

Burma

Deregistration of Two More Parties Announced

BK0703094592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Announcement No. 1012 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar (Burma), dated 6 March 1992]

[Text] Subject: Announcement on the automatic dissolution of the Kachin State National Congress for Democracy and the Arakan League for Democracy.

1. It has been found that the following political parties have been automatically dissolved following the resignation of a majority of members from their respective central executive committees on their own freewill:

A. The Kachin State National Congress for Democracy, KNCD.
B. The Arakan League for Democracy.

2. Therefore, the commission hereby announces that the registration of the Kachin State National Congress for Democracy and the Arakan League for Democracy as political parties with this commission has been annulled effective 6 March 1992.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Seven Killed, 87 Injured in Helicopter Crash

BK1003005392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Mar 92 p A3

[Text] Seven Burmese Air Force personnel were killed and 87 injured when a helicopter crashed into two jet fighters on the ground at Hmawbi Airbase in north Rangoon.

The incident at first was suspected to have been an act of sabotage. Later it was classified an accident, a Rangoon-based diplomatic source said. The source said the crash happened at 4:30 pm on Feb 25 when a helicopter crash-landed on takeoff, hitting two jets which burst into flames. Among those killed was Lt Col Kyaw Sein Htun.

The accident happened one day after the junta, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), called a meeting to assess its military operation against Karen rebels.

The two jet fighters had been preparing to take off on raids against the Karen guerrillas' mountain headquarters at Manerplaw, said the source.

The air strikes were to be part of a dry-season offensive aimed at capturing Manerplaw which has withstood the Burmese Army's ground attacks for the past three years. SLORC has asserted that its military would try to capture Manerplaw by March 27, which marks Burma's Armed Forces Day.

The source said that although the incident was not publicized by the regime, Rangoon residents had spread the news and informed foreign embassies.

The source said the meeting between SLORC and the Burmese Army on Feb 24 at the Advanced Operational Headquarters in Papun had ended the first phase of operations against the Karen, especially the attempt to seize Manerplaw which began in early January and had been a "total failure".

Maj Gen Tin U, army Chief of Staff and a SLORC secretary, chaired the meeting which was attended by the operational commanders of the 11th, 22nd, 44th, 66th and 88th Light Infantry Divisions engaged in the offensive against the Karen.

The meeting reported high casualties in the operations, with 987 Burmese troops killed and 129 others, as well as 62 porters, captured, the source said.

It cited several reasons for the failed attempt against the Karen, including the small size of the army's ground attack force and its failure to prevent Karen troops from launching attacks from the rear against the Burmese forces.

The meeting decided to start the second phase of the operation the next day, with air force jets launching heavy attacks against Manerplaw and Thai Pa Vicho mountain, the source said.

—Meanwhile, dissident Burmese students condemned SLORC for using Swedish-made Carl Gustav recoilless weapons in its offensive against the Karen, saying "many students and ethnic minorities suffered deafness and some had been paralyzed" because of the destructive weapons.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front which joined forces with the Karen in defending Manerplaw also urged the world community and international human rights and relief agencies to denounce the SLORC for using the weapon, and FFV Ordnance (formerly Swedish Ordnance) for "indirectly" being involved "in killing innocent Burmese people by selling this kind of weapon of mass destruction".

The Front said one of these Swedish guns, its 84mm shells and some spare parts were captured during the military engagements.

Karen Insurgent Attack in Shwegyin Kills Seven

BK0703091492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been obstructing local peace and order, burning down villages, and launching light weapon attacks on villages in order to cause casualties among innocent local people.

At 0130 on 5 March a KNU terrorist insurgent unit entered Winkhale village in Shwegyin Township from the south and opened fire using their light weapons. The attack killed seven villagers and wounded four others.

Among the dead were: Daw San, age 42, from Weikthalin village; Ma Khin Cho Myint, age 19; Ma Aye Aye Nwe, 14; Ma Cho Cho Naing, 9; Maung Pho Kala, 6; Ma Su Ei, 4; and Maung Win Myo, 28, from Mayangon Township, Yangon [Rangoon]. Those wounded were: U Thein Dan, 42, and his one-year old son; U Ohn Kyein, 56; and Maung Zaw Win Naing, 20. They are being treated at the People's Hospital in Shwegyin.

It has been learned that military columns are pursuing the insurgents.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

General Shows Concern Over Approach to Security

BK0803104092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Mar 92 p 2

[By K. Vijiyan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed.—The Armed Forces chief today expressed unhappiness with certain Government agencies for taking an individual rather than a co-ordinated approach to security problems.

While he did not want to name these agencies, Jen Tan Sri Hashim Ali who is retiring from service on April 11 said there were visible signs of such a sad state of affairs.

He also said it would be "sad and fatal for the country if each service goes its own individual way in solving security problems."

He believed this was a problem because of a lack of a unifying factor for co-operation among such agencies.

Previous, the agencies had the common threat of communist insurgency which was eliminated following a peace accord between the Governments of Malaysia and Thailand and the Communist Party of Malaya in 1989.

He was speaking at the opening of a 38-week course for 31 officers from the military, police and public service at the Armed Forces Defence College here.

General Tan Sri Hashim said it was vital for all Government agencies involved in security not to lose their experience and knowledge of working together.

"For example, the Kesban (security and development) projects at the border areas would not have succeded in containing the communist threat without the co-operation of the agencies involved," he said.

"Kesban forced us to think of national as opposed to service interests alone."

He felt the National Internal Security Committee was a good forum for all relevant policing bodies to further enhance their cooperation in matters of mutual interest.

General Tan Sri Hashim also said the Armed Forces was ready to help other Government agencies like the Police and Fisheries Department in dealing with piracy refugee, illegal fishing and dadah trafficking.

He said the police were doing a good job in curbing the piracy problem but they had manpower constraints which the Armed Forces could help out.

He spoke of the dangers of piracy to navigation and environment, including the threat of an oil spill and accidents at sea.

He was pleased the college had chosen the theme "Malaysian Maritime Interest" as the basis for its courses this year as the country had rich marine resources.

"The potential for conflict is high around here as countries like China, Vietnam and the Philippines have staked their claims on several atolls in the Spratly island. Claims have also been made on other islands in our waters.

"We are depending on a diplomatic solution to these claims but if diplomacy fails, and the government tells us to defend the islands militarily, then we must have a credible and modern force."

On the move by China to pass a law claiming its sovereignty over the Spratlys and the right to the use of military force to uphold this claim, General Tan Sri Hashim told reporters Malaysia would continue to maintain its naval presence on three of the islands in the group.

Rapid Deployment Force Fully Operational in Jul

BK0903140492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia's Rapid Deployment Force, RDF, will be fully operational in July. Consisting of parachute-trained soldiers, the RDF could be deployed anywhere in the country by air. Outgoing Chief of Defense Forces General Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali told reporters this after a farewell visit to the headquarters of the 11th Division at (Camp Infal) in Kuala Lumpur today. He said the RDF's establishment was in line with the Armed Forces maintaining a small but effective power structure with all the mobility and fire power. Units earmarked for the RDF had been training hard since last year, and some had already reached full air-borne status—the ability to be air-transported or parachuted anywhere.

Initially, the RDF will be of batallion group strength or a parachute batallion with the elements of armor, artillery, logistics, and mechanized transport.

According to Gen. Tan Sri Hashim, the RDF will be gradually increased to division strength and equipped with the latest equipment. Commander of the 11th Division Major General Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdullah said the RDF will be conducting a major exercise this year to test the cohesiveness of all units incorporated into it.

Bilateral Trade 'Growing Steadily' With SRV

BK0603101792 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0432 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 6 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Economic relations between Malaysia and Vietnam have improved a great deal with bilateral trade growing steadily, according to Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan.

He was optimistic about the potential for economic cooperation between the two countries because of Malaysia's great strides in economic development.

"Not only is it among the world's largest producer of rubber, palm oil, cocoa, and tin, it also has great potential for investing abroad," Khoan told the SAIGON TIMES in a recent interview.

Excerpts of the interview were made available to reporters here Thursday by the southwestern state of Malacca Chief Minister Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik on his return from a four-day trade mission to Vietnam which ended Wednesday.

Khoan said attributed the cooperation to the geographical closeness of the two countries and growing regional ties between developing countries. [sentence as received]

The Vietnamese Government granted licences to eight Malaysia-Vietnam joint venture projects following the visit of its First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet to Malaysia in March last year.

He added that both countries have also drafted a cooperation program in the field of oil exploitation, agriculture, industry, and aeronautics.

Vietnam and Malaysia were now involved in oil exploration and exploitation on a profit-sharing basis with Malaysia agreeing to train 150 Vietnamese oil technicians, according to Khoan.

He said Kiet's visit to Malaysia was considered a success and many important agreements were reached between both countries, among them to promote investments, provide technical aid to Vietnam and setting up of a joint committee to promote bilateral cooperation.

Both sides have also agreed to conclude a contract for direct marine transport services between the two countries and to hold talks leading to the signing of agreements on post and telecommunication services as well as avoidance of double taxation, he added.

He said the existing Kuala Lumpur-Ho Chi Minh City flight service by Pelangi Air would be extended to Hanoi and an agreement on financial and banking cooperation had also been reached.

Japan Asked To Revise Tax Structure on Timber

BK0903054492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0438 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 9 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia has asked Japan for a complete revamp of the latter's tax structure on imported saw logs and timber finished products.

Under the existing tax structure, Japan levies a 15 percent tax on timber finished products and five percent on logs.

Malaysian Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said Monday the tax structure should be reversed to help promote Malaysia's downstream timber processing industry, which can also help safeguard the environment as less trees will be felled.

The official request from the Malaysian Government was made by law to Japanese Minister for Global Environment Shozaburo Nakamura, who is expected to table the Malaysian proposal to the Japanese Cabinet soon.

Law said Malaysia's exports of saw logs to Japan between January and November were substantial.

Singapore

Government Lifts Ban on South African Imports

BK0803105792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Mar 92 p 44

[Text] Traders here can now import South African goods following the Singapore Government's lifting of its 27 year ban on them yesterday.

In a statement, the Trade Development Board (TDB) said that another 2-1/2-year ban on export of petroleum products there was also lifted yesterday. This was gazetted yesterday by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

TDB said the removal of the embargoes was in line with earlier indications given on Monday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

MFA had said that the bans would be lifted as irreversible political reforms have taken place in South Africa.

The Republic's earlier ban on South African imports was in support of an international trade embargo against the country over its apartheid policy.

MFA had also noted that the United States, the European Community and Japan had already resumed trade and investment ties with South Africa.

With the lifting of the ban, TDB said that traders here can now send declarations for imports from and exports to South Africa through the TradeNet system for processing and approval.

Cambodia

UN Officials Confirm Presence of SRV Troops

BK0903075992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] High-ranking UN officials say that units of Vietnamese troops are still operating in Cambodia despite claims by Hanoi that it has withdrawn all troops from Cambodia two and a half years ago.

UN officials, who requested anonymity, say units of the Vietnamese Army, which disguised themselves in the uniforms of the Phnom Penh regime's troops, are deployed near Siem Reap town. The sources also say that the United Nations has also confirmed the presence of Vietnamese military advisers in Cambodia.

Vietnam and the regime it has installed in Phnom Penh have repeatedly denied that Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia. A high-ranking UN official says that now the United Nations knows that Vietnamese special units and military advisers are certainly hiding in Cambodia. These Vietnamese troops and advisers wear the uniforms of the Phnom Penh regime's troops.

UN military officials say that they do not know the exact number of Vietnamese soldiers still in Cambodia but estimate that it is in the hundreds. The United Nations has dispatched small teams of military officials to Siem Reap and other provinces in the past few months to monitor the issue of peace, which is causing concerns, while waiting for the arrival of the entire UN peacekeeping force.

Diplomats and UN sources say that at the same time, a battalion of Indonesian troops—part of the larger UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia otherwise known as UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]—will arrive in Cambodia this week. UN sources say that 850 Indonesian soldiers will arrive in Kompong Som port in three ships on Tuesday and Wednesday [10, 11 March].

Malaysian diplomats say that Malaysia will also dispatch a battalion of soldiers to Cambodia.

Foreign Ministry Rejects Statement

BK0903135392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Statement by the spokesman for the State of Cambodia Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 March—read by announcer]

[Text] According to THE BANGKOK POST of 9 March citing a Thai [as heard] news agency AP [ASSOCIATED PRESS] report from Oddar Meanchey, Vietnamese Army units still are operating in Cambodia. A senior UN military officer said: The Khmer Rouge are right on this. We all know now that Vietnamese special forces and advisers are indeed still hiding here. They are dressed in Cambodian Government uniforms.

The State of Cambodia Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to categorically deny this biased report. There is not a single Vietnamese Army soldier remaining in Cambodia in the wake of the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces in September 1989. We demand that the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, UNAMIC, make a thorough examination of the fantasy of the American officer of the United Nations and fully publicize the outcome of that investigation.

This slanderous allegation is merely a game to undermine the implementation of the Paris peace plan.

Phnom Penh, 9 March 1992

UNAMIC Chief: 'No Proof'

BK1003092492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 10 Mar 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 10 (AFP)—The presence of large Vietnamese Army units in Cambodia is unlikely, but more than one Cambodian faction uses foreign military advisors, the top U.N. military official here said Tuesday.

"I have absolutely no proof that there are armed Vietnamese in the country," French General Michel Loridon, military commander of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), said in an interview with AFP [Agence France-Presse].

"I don't think there are divisions and regiments," he said, when asked about reports that Vietnamese soldiers wearing the uniforms of Phnom Penh's army remained in Cambodia.

"But as you know, all the factions have their advisors. There are some that have American advisors, others that have Chinese advisors, etc.—not officially declared. Everything is possible but I have no proof," the general said.

A Western news agency this week quoted U.N. officers as saying Vietnamese special forces wearing Phnom Penh uniforms had been seen in the central city of Siem Reap.

"They had reports but they didn't (personally) see any Vietnamese. The reports came from those who don't like Vietnamese so it's not proof," Loridon said, adding that he would not hestitate to publicly denounce any proven violations of October's Paris peace agreement.

The Phnom Penh Foreign Ministry, meanwhile rejected the news report and asked UNAMIC to "thoroughly investigate."

"The allegation was only a ploy aimed at stalling the Paris peace agreements," a ministry statement said.

"No Vietnamese soldier still remains in Cambodia since September 1989."

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge and install the current government in Phnom Penh. Hanoi announced the withdrawal of the last of its troops in September 1989.

The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and the two non-communist resistance factions—which have failed to break Phnom Penh's grip over three-fourths of the country—have disputed the withdrawal claim.

The two non-communist resistance factions have received U.S. backing.

Loridon said he was confident the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which succeeds the much smaller UNAMIC this month, would be able to fulfill its mandate of guaranteeing the country is free of foreign military forces.

But he said he was concerned that the Khmer Rouge would use the presence of Vietnamese settlers—who play a vital economic role in Cambodia—to accuse UNTAC of protecting Vietnamese troops.

"How do you tell a Vietnamese fisherman from a Vietnamese soldier?" he asked.

UNAMIC Chief: Factions Battling for Land

BK1003102692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 10 (AFP)—Phnom Penh's troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas are battling for control of a string of villages in central Cambodia, in violation of the cease-fire, the U.N. military commander said here Tuesday.

French General Michel Loridon, military commander of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia, said the artillery duel peaked February 27 but had continued intermittently.

He said Khmer Rouge forces commanded by Ta Mok and Phnom Penh troops were shelling one another's positions as they grappled for control of five villages near Kompong Thom that straddle the supply route between Kompong Thom and Siem Riep, farther west.

Loridon said the factions appeared to be jockeying for territory ahead of the deployment starting next week of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia which will include 16,000 peacekeeping troops.

He did not say which side had started the clashes.

SRV Troops Reinforce Kompong Thom Offensive

BK0703031092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] On 28 February the Vietnamese aggressors brought in 20 truckloads of fresh Vietnamese troops to take part in the offensive against the liberated zones of the Cambodian resistance forces in Kompong Thom Province.

Reliable reports from our people say these Vietnamese troops were brought in from Vietnam at night across the border along the Krek Road, Route 7, to Kompong Cham. Once they arrived in Kompong Cham, these Vietnamese soldiers put on the uniforms of the Phnom Penh side's troops and were then taken by truck to the 2d Military Region, straight to Kompong Thom.

Our people say that whenever major clashes are reported in western Cambodia, the Vietnamese are seen bringing troops and ammunition along this pass, and when these troops return to Vietnam they plunder and carry off our people's property and cattle. People in Kompong Cham Province suggest that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the four Cambodian parties quickly set up checkpoints in Krek and Memot to ensure that Vietnam withdraws so people can live in peace.

Khmer Rouge Feb Cease-Fire Violations Noted

BK0903142092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1133 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 9 Mar (SPK)—The Khmer Rouge of Division 616 on 27 February fired 200 85-mm mortar shells on Cambodian Government positions located in Vor Yeav, Kdei Cha, Kdei Thnaot, and Prasdat Thlork, Kompong Thom Province, it was learned from military sources which reported that numerous civilians were killed or wounded.

They added that hundreds of families of war refugees who had returned to their village at Sankor were again forced to flee back to National Route 6 following the attack launched by about 100 polpotists.

The same day, a Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) delegation accompanied by its adviser Mr. Bernard went to the aid of these refugees.

According to the sources, in Siem Reap Province to the north of the country, the polpotists fired 32 artillery shells on Kouk Thlork Leu Commune on 25 and 26 February, wounding an inhabitant. On 26 February a group of polpotists who had stolen 75 head of cattle in Kralanh District was put out of action by the local Armed Forces.

On 28 February 15 82-mm shells were fired at Pongro Kraom Commune, Chikreng District, killing and wounding one. On the same day about 100 mortar shells landed on Ta Siem Commune, Svay Leu District, though without causing any damage, the sources said.

Khmer Rouge Officials Missing From Army HQ

BK0903132692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 9 (AFP) - Officers from the United Nations and Cambodia's four rival armies met here Monday for the first time since sending the factions' liaison officers into one another's territory, U.N. officials said.

The "Mixed Military Working Group (MMWG)" was to have discussed problems encountered during Saturday's deployment of MMWG teams in all four Cambodian zones, the officials said.

The MMWG team deployed in the Khmer Rouge stonghold of Pailin did not include a representative of the Phnom Penh government, which the Khmer Rouge has been fighting to oust for 13 years, the officials said.

The MMWG was formed to reinforce the cease-fire in Cambodia by enabling communication between the four factions, and to address other military issues such as mine clearing. All four factions were represented in the teams that deployed at Banteay Mien Rith and Phum Khu—headquarters of the two non-communist guerrilla groups—and Battambang, which is controlled by Phnom Penh, U.N. officials said.

But officers from the radical Marxist Khmer Rouge were missing from two of the three headquarters of Phnom Penh's army, Siem Riep and Kampong Cham.

The MMWG is headed by French General Michel Loridon, military commander of the U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia.

During its last meeting at the end of February, it investigated the shooting of Australian Colonel Russell Stuart as he flew by helicopter over territory controlled by Khmer Rouge Commander Ta Mok, but it has not made public the results of the investigation.

Phnom Pehn Threats Called Rights Violation

BK0803084292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] It has been learned that at the end of February, (Yun Thi), chief of police in Peam Reang District of Prey Veng Province, in cooperation with the secretary and some members of the party committee of (Koen Choam Din Yoeng) Commune, threatened to arrest 55-year-old (Yim Ham), a member of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], accusing him of launching a propaganda campaign in support of the KPNLF. Unable to tolerate such a violation of human rights, (Yim Ham) left his house to hide in another place.

A day later the same chief of police, (Yun Thi), led a group of policemen to arrest (Sam Oeun), another KPNLF member. (Sam Oeun) has been detained in (Kanchom) Commune until now.

Concerning this matter, the KPNLF calls on the Phnom Penh authorities to release these men and immediately stop their coercive acts in order to show their respects for the 14 January 1991 resolution of the Supreme National Council on freedom of political parties in Cambodia.

Released KPNLF Member Vows To Work for Peace

BK0803081492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Haem Kroesna, a famous fighter against Vietnamese troops in Cambodia who was jailed by the Vietnamese in 1979 has been released. He has pledged to continue working in the ranks of the Khmer People's Liberation Front [KPNLF]—which is changing its name to the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party—until achieving permanent success in seeking peace and happiness for Cambodia and all Cambodian people.

The latest release of 91 political prisoners was held at 1700 on 7 March 1992 at the Phochani Throne Hall in the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia; representatives of the KPNLF, International Committee of the Red Cross, UN Advanced Mission in Cambodia, and of the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

Of these political prisoners, who were released from T-3, T-4 and other prisons in various provinces, 37 are from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]; six are from the KPNLF; and 48 from the Khmer Rouge group.

The KPNLF lodged a strong protest to the Vietnamese and the State of Cambodia's party for the release of Mr. Haem Kroesna who was detained for his struggle against Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia.

In 1979, Mr. Hoem Kroesna set up a provisional government in central Phnom Penh with himself as the prime minister.

Prince Sihanouk's Recent Activities Reported

BK0903082992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], received credentials from the ambassador of Mauritania on the morning of Sunday [8 March], yesterday, at the Khemarin Palace. This marks the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mauritania and the SNC. Earlier, Mauritania has recognized the tripartite Cambodian coalition government in the struggle for the cause of Cambodia's independence and peace.

During this ceremony, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, said to the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mauritania to the SNC that Mauritania has successively supported him both in the struggle and after his return to Cambodia. This noble gesture reflects the sincere solidarity of mankind the world over.

Also on that Sunday morning, the prince head of state received (Yashuyaki Ishizawa) and the delegation from Japan's Sofia University, with the participation of Yukio Imagawa, Japanese ambassador accredited to the SNC.

Last Friday [6 March], the prince head of state and his wife visited Svay Rieng Province during which he inaugurated a new primary school named Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Primary School and a new building of the Svay Rieng provincial hospital.

On Wednesday [4 March], HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, presided over a working session of the Cambodian international committee in charge of restoring the Angkor temple. On the same day, the prince head of state granted an audience to the Asia Foundation with the participation of the four Cambodian parties. Afterward, the prince head of state received His Excellency Ataul Karim, head of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia].

Views Reconstruction With UNDP

BK0603082192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and Supreme National Council [SNC] chairman, met with the UN Development Program [UNDP] representative in Cambodia at the Khemarin Palace in the afternoon of 3 March to study the Cambodian rehabilitation and reconstruction project. In their talks, they dealt with the enhancement of cooperation between the SNC and all Cambodian factions and the UNDP in a move to further bolster the possibility for Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The talks also discussed drafting a detailed report on Cambodia's urgent needs to be presented to the UN secretary general and to an international conference on Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction to be held in Tokyo so that the countries that have promised to help Cambodia can quickly come up with their aid.

Chairs Artifact Protection Meeting

BK0603081592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] A meeting of the Committee for Protection and Preservation of Cambodian Ancient Temples and National Heritages was held on 4 March at the Khemarin Palace under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

Attending the meeting were Their Excellencies Dit Munti and Im Chhunlim, members of the SNC; Mr. Hang Chuon, minister of Information and Culture of the State of Cambodia [SOC]; Mr. Van Molivan, famous Cambodian architect representing the UNESCO; Mr. Sok An, SOC foreign minister [title as heard] and SNC secretary; and representatives of the Cambodian opposition groups.

Also present were His Excellency Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, and their excellencies the ambassadors of France, UK, U.S., India, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Thailand, and Poland.

The meeting discussed measures to prevent looting of Cambodian ancient artifacts and de-mining in areas where there are ancient temples.

The meeting also called on UNESCO to closely cooperate with countries in possession of Cambodian artifacts to return them to Cambodia, and proposed that access to areas where there are ancient temples be given to the ancient artifact protectors.

The meeting also agreed to set up a subcommittee making up two representatives from the SOC and two others from the Cambodian opposition side to facilitate the protection and preservation of national heritages and ancient temples.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk was very pleased with and highly commended the efforts of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and SOC Government in protecting ancient temples and checking the looting of national heritages.

The meeting also called on the international organizations, particularly the UNESCO, to help promote the preservation of Cambodia's ancient temples and national heritages promptly without having to wait for the results of the election.

Son Sann Urges Troop Retraining for Peace Jobs

BK0503100192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Speech by His Excellency Son Sann, Khmer People's National Liberation Front, KPNLF, president and Supreme National Council member, on the 13th founding anniversary of the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Armed Forces, on 5 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable Buddhist monks; my salutation to all beloved fraternal compatriots and combatants of all echelons in the Armed Forces of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF]:

The 5th of March is the most important date for the KPNLF, a date we will all treasure forever in our hearts. For all of you, especially the fraternal combatants, today is the 13th anniversary of the KPNLF Armed Forces. When I went to Phnom Penh, several of our people there told me that they were doing everything possible to protect our national interests. I note that they have really tried to do so. Moreover, they have observed that because our fighters had fought so hard to liberate our country from the Vietnamese aggressors, the latter were compelled to sign the Paris accords on 23 October and to abide by the solution worked out for us by the Big Five. Without these fighters fighting so valiantly over the past years, the Vietnamese would not have signed the Paris accords. This is a historical fact that we must recognize.

In our part of the country, all of us agree that our fighters, who have been fighting for the past 13 years, have been making all kinds of sacrifices, some of them their lives. For this reason, I have recommended that all KPNLF leaders never forget the sacrifices of our brothers who fell on the battlefields, those who have become disabled, and the widows and orphans whose husbands or fathers have died on the battlefields. The Khmer nation must never forget all their good deeds. We must be grateful to those who fought and died on the battlefields to liberate our country from the Vietnamese aggressors. We must be grateful to the war invalids, the widows, and the orphans whose husbands or fathers died in action. Some European countries provide jobs for war veterans, allowing them to work in museums, as policemen, or at cigarette shops the French call Bureaux de Tabac. Other countries have special schools for war orphans. That has been done in Europe and in some of our neighboring countries. For this reason, I have advised our KPNLF leaders not to forget to remind the future leaders of Cambodia to pay tribute and gratitude to those who have fought to free Cambodia from the Vietnamese aggressors and to take good care of the war invalids, widows, and orphans. I have repeatedly reminded the Khmer nation of its duty toward the combatants who have fought for the past years to free our country from the Vietnamese.

There is another issue which I have expressed twice in the United States and France, and seven to eight times at our Cambodian border. I said I recognize all combatants who have fought over the past 13 years and those who respect the discipline of the KPNLF. Soon they will be disarmed. I have already informed our KPNLF leaders to continue to look for jobs for our soon-to-be-demobilized combatants so that they will be employed as civilians of our country. The time is drawing near. For this reason, I would like to remind all unit commanders to find jobs, vocations, or careers for all the combatants so that they can feed themselves and their families, whether they remain combatants in the national Army or leave the barracks. This is the duty of the commanders.

As far as I am concerned, I have also advised KPNLF leaders who wish to be career soldiers to find the means to enroll in the war academy so that they can serve in the future national Army of Cambodia. For those who wish to leave the Army, they should find jobs in administration or commerce after receiving proper training in those areas. For example, there are jobs for them in the police. The United Nations will soon need—no, it now needs—people to clear land mines. I made a request to Thailand and those who went to the United Nations to discuss the dispatch of mine-clearance teams to the Thai border and Cambodian areas close to Thailand. I asked them to train our combatants to defuse land mines so that they can work with the Thai teams in the interest of Cambodia and so that they can be employed and get salaries to feed themselves and their families.

Moreover, I have also requested that big and rich countries come to help rebuild Cambodia to use Cambodian workers for reconstruction work. Therefore, KPNLF commanders or leaders should be prepared to train combatants as carpenters, mechanics, or masons. When foreign countries come in to help us rebuild Cambodia, we will ask them to recruit war veterans as workers. This is my recommendation. I remind all commanders and leaders to never forget my well disciplined combatants. Please work out documents and files so that they will not have a hard time finding jobs to feed themselves and their families in the future.

At this point, I will say good-bye to all of you with the great expectation that all my recommendations will be received and executed by KPNLF leaders. In conclusion I pray to all the gods in heaven to protect all fraternal combatants and their families as well as the war widows, invalids, and orphans. May all of you be blessed, remain happy, have jobs, and enjoy the care and welfare the nation will provide from now until the full independence of Cambodia.

Good-bye to venerable monks and good-bye to all brothers and beloved combatants.

Heng Samrin Message on International Women's Day

BK0803105192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Greetings message from His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, to women and compatriots throughout the country on the 82d International Women's Day on 8 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear mesdames, misses, fraternal women, and compatriots: On the 82d international women's day on 8 March, the day of the historic struggle of international women for liberty and equal rights, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the Council of State of the State of Cambodia [SOC], I extend warmest greetings and best wishes to fraternal Cambodian women, mesdames, and misses who are foreigners living and working in Cambodia.

Also on this occasion, I sincerely commend the many outstanding feats of our fraternal women in working to enhance their livelihood as a contribution to building the national society and to peace and national progress.

We are very proud of the all-round huge achievements of our people in the past year. This brilliant success is attributed to the implementation of the CPP's political policy and reflects the great efforts of our cadres, male and female combatants, and people of all strata. This includes the numerous women who have taken part in bringing new changes to our national society. [words indistinct] confidence in the brilliant future of our beloved motherland.

Dear women and compatriots, our country is in the process of implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to end the war and to bring peace and stability for the progress and prosperity of our country.

This is the most favorable period for our nation in ending the people's misery and suffering caused by the protracted war which had lasted for over 20 years.

On this occasion, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the international community and all countries for helping to settle the Cambodian problem. Our Cambodian people are confident in the royal mission of (?reconciliation) of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

As the hosts, the CPP and the SOC Government will continue to make efforts to correctly implement the Paris agreement. We hope all parties will place the nation and people's interests above all else and cooperate willingly for peace and national reconciliation.

I appeal to all fraternal women and compatriots to continue taking part in social work to contribute to the successfull implementation of the 23 October 1991 agreement.

Once again, I extend my best wishes of good health and success in work to fraternal women from all walks of life throughout the country and foreign madames and misses who are fulfilling their international duties in Cambodia.

Center in Pursat Ready To Receive Refugees

BK0803105892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0401 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 7 Mar (SPK)—The authority in the hilly province of Pursat, about 150 km northwest of Phnom Penh, has spent nearly 300 million riel (over 300,000 U.S. dollars) to improve a reception center for repatriated persons along National Route 5 at Roleang in Bakan District.

The center consists of a series of wooden houses covered with corrugated iron, warehouses, a kitchen, latrines, and a garage. The province is also ready to allocate plots of land for a new life. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is in charge of building public facilities: schools, health centers, water distribution network, and so on.

Australian Catholic Cooperation Delegation Visits

Meets With Sihanouk

BK0803100192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] At 1700 on 5 March at the Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, granted an audience to the Australian Catholic Cooperation delegation led by Cardinal (Edward Ferdinand Klemby).

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his delight at receiving the Australian Catholic cardinal in Cambodia. He thanked the Australian Government for its important role in drafting a peace plan through which the Paris agreement was reached to end the misery suffered by the Cambodian people for 13 years.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk also said that he would do anything possible to enable the Australian Catholic mission to work well in Cambodia.

The Catholic cardinal deeply thanked Prince Sihanouk for granting him an audience and wished him good health and long life as he continues to be the people's protector and support for all religions.

Meets With Hun Sen

BK0603115792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of Ministers, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, had a cordial and friendly talk with the Australian Catholic Cooperation delegation headed by Cardinal (Candy) at the Cabinet of the Council of Ministers on the morning of 6 March.

During the conversation, H.E. Hun Sen thanked the Australian Catholic Cooperation delegation for visiting Cambodia. He informed his guests of the efforts made by the CPP and SOC Government to rebuild Cambodia despite the fact that the SOC has experienced great difficulties in the economic field. He also told them about the preparations made by the CPP and SOC Government to welcome the Cambodian refugees back from various camps along the Cambodian-Thai border.

In his return remarks, Cardinal (Candy) expressed hope that countries in the world would continue to assist the Cambodian people and the Australian Catholic Cooperation organization would do its best to help them. The cardinal also expressed hope that in the days to come Cambodia will enjoy a bright future like other countries in the world.

Indonesia

Portuguese Ship Continues 'Provocative' Mission

130 Passengers Begin Voyage

BK0903122692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1149 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Darwin, Mar 9 (OANA/ANTARA)—Portuguese ferry Lusitania Expresso is scheduled to leave Darwin Monday evening to start a provocative mission to Dili, East Timor, amidst a cold response from the Australian people in general.

"It seems everything will be okay and we will start sailing from Stokes Hills Wharf, Darwin Port, at around 1630 local time," a spokesman of the Expresso mission Antonio Ravara told ANTARA correspondent Riris Irawati in Darwin.

The number of passengers to join Lusitania Expresso on its self-proclaimed "Peace boat" has increased from 120 people registered on Sunday to 130 on Tuesday, according to Ravara.

"Among them is a former Portuguese President 1976-1983, Antonio Ramalho Eanes," he said. [words indistinct]

There are no Indonesian students joining the Portuguese ferry's voyage to Dili, he added.

Ravara, 23, denied allegation saying that he "is toying" with the Indonesian-Australian relations by organizing the sailing to Dili. The Expresso mission has received support from a number of donators from the Netherlands, Britain, and the United States, besides from Portugal, he said defending his mission.

On the possibility of Expresso's passengers to face difficulties in returning to Darwin when they are refused to enter the Indonesian waters, he said that everything had been anticipated and passengers had been given re-entry or multiple visas to Australia.

The Indonesian Government has from the beginning said that the voyage was provocative and nothing to do with humanitarian mission but merely based on political pretence aimed at creating confrontation and tension in East Timor.

The local media, until the arrival of Lusitania Expresso, did not seem to give a special attention to this issue.

The daily NEW TERRITORY NEWS tabloid carried a story about it not more than a half page. The ABC in its Channel 8 news program picked up the Lusitania Expresso issue at the end of its broadcast.

Even though Ravara optimistically said a big number of supporters will bid farewell to the departure of the ferry, which has a length of 73 metres, Stokes Hills Wharf did not look busier than previous days prior to the departure of the ship.

There was even no security guard at Stokes Hills Wharf on Monday morning.

Lusitania Expresso is expected to arrive at the border of the Indonesian waters in 30 hours.

Armed Forces Said Ready To Cope

BK0903124692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno has made it clear that as the armed forces of a sovereign nation, the Indonesian Armed Forces is ready to carry out existing regulations and procedures to cope with the planned arrival of the Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso. Speaking to reporters in Jakarta this afternoon following the government's rejection of the ship's arrival by closing its territorial waters, Gen. Sutrisno said all existing maritime procedures are now being applied.

Gen. Sutrisno said military means will not be the only approach to cope with the ship and an integrated procedure will be adopted in accordance with the actual circumstances.

Nine Frigates Mobilized

BK0903122092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 9 Mar 92

[By Pascal Mallet]

[Text] JAKARTA, March 9 (AFP)—Indonesia mobilised nine frigates Monday as part of a hostile reception in the Timor Sea for a Portuguese peace boat, while aware that another military clash would be a diplomatic disaster for Jakarta.

The boat, the Lusitania Expresso, left Darwin, northern Australia, Monday and is due off Dili, the capital of East Timor, overnight Tuesday.

To prevent the ship entering Timor waters Jakarta has stationed a flotilla of 1[illegible] ships, including the frigates, which "is a major deployment given the size of Indonesia's navy," one military expert told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE].

The passengers on the peace boat, including journalists, human rights activists and proponents of East Timor independence, want to lay wreaths in a Dili cemetery to commemorate those who died there in November in a massacre by Indonesian troops.

Denouncing the action as "provocation," the head of the Indonesian military, General Try Sutrisno has warned that the passengers, who include Australians, Europeans, Americans and Japanese among others, would be expelled if necessary.

But Western diplomats here said Jakarta would be keen to avoid unnecessary brutality against the passengers, who represent some 28 different nationalities.

"This time Jakarta will allow the military very little leeway on the scene," said a diplomat.

"The order to fire will only be given by General Try in person, after going up and down the chain of command," suggested another.

One of the best known passengers is General Antonio Eanes, the former president of Portugal, whose colony East Timor used to be until it was unilaterally annexed by Jakarta in 1976 following a military invasion the previous year.

The organisers of the peace boat have argued that the United Nations still recognises Portugal as the administering power in East Timor, and therefore the island and its territorial waters still come under Lisbon.

In Darwin, the captain of the Lusitania Expresso, Luis dos Santos, a Portuguese holder of a Swedish passport, said that on no account would he attempt to force the Indonesian blockade.

But in a statement in Sydney Monday, U.S. diplomats said they were concerned that "someone or something would provoke a confrontation despite the best intentions on both sides."

On November 12 last year Indonesian soldiers fired on a crowd attending a memorial service at the cemetery killing 50 and wounding 89 by official count, with a further 90 still listed as missing.

Faced with an international outcry, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas last month undertook a wide ranging tour of North America, Japan and Europe to repair the damage and explain that, for the first time, action was going to be taken against Indonesian military officers.

The diplomatic heat was turned up when Portuguese President Mario Soares warned Alatas in Lisbon that "appropriate diplomatic and political steps" would be taken if the peace boat mission went wrong.

"If things go wrong (the Portuguese Government) must take appropriate diplomatic and political steps to protest and express its solidarity with those who have been running a risk," Soares told the Monday edition of the Lisbon daily PUBLICO.

Warning Shot To Be Fired

BK1003075892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0729 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Dili (E. Timor), Mar 10 (OANA-ANTARA)—Chief of the Indonesian Eastern Fleet Command Rear Admiral Tanto Kuswanto has said the Indonesian naval task forces would fire a warning shot if the Portuguese ferry "Lusitania Expresso" pressed to enter the Indonesian waters.

The commander made the remarks upon his arrival here on Monday from Surabaya (East Java) to inspect naval ships stationed in East Timor waters to ward off the entry of the provocative boat.

"Let's see tomorrow," he told reporters a moment before getting on a helicopter which flew him to "KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Teluk Banten" naval ship stationed in the East Timor waters.

"Lusitania Expresso" which flies the Portuguese flag carries on board 120 students and journalists, including former Portuguese President (1976-1986) Antonio Ramalho Eanes.

Expresso's passengers with self-proclaimed peace mission are planning to lay a wreath on the Santa Cruz cemetery in East Timor's capital of Dili, scene of the November 12 incident which claimed 50 lives last year.

It left Darwin port on Monday evening for East Timor and was expected to arrive in the border of East Timor waters in 36 hours.

Spokesman Warns Ship Captain

BK1003073492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0541 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 10 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) spokesman Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Nurhadi Purwosaputro stressed here on Tuesday that the captain of Lusitania Expresso, Luis dos Santo, is the only person who is responsible for the ship's provocative voyage to East Timor.

"He is the most responsible person for the provocative mission," The Armed Forces spokesman said in reply to ANTARA on the departure of the ferry which is flying the Portuguese flag, to East Timor.

"As a skipper, he must know regulations and be responsible for all incidents which might befall the ship," he added.

Nurhadi said further the departure of Lusitania Expresso to East Timor is a bold decision which ignores the Indonesian Government's warnings firmly rejecting the visit.

"The voyage is not a peace mission at all such as it claims but provocation which is based on political pretension to create confrontation and tension in East Timor," Nurhadi said.

Lusitania left Darwin port at 19:15 hours local time on Monday for East Timor to start its provocative mission against Indonesia.

Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Commander Gen. [General] Try Sutrisno said here on Monday that the government and ABRI have taken security steps to anticipate the provocative actions by Lusitania Expresso and its passengers against Indonesia.

"We will not take military action only, but also an integrated action, in a sense that we will adjust facilities to be used in accordance with situation we are facing. All of them have its rule of involvement," the general said.

In Surabaya, during a ceremony marking the transfer of two ships built by a state company P.T. Pal to the Ministry of Defence and Security, Monday afternoon, the Armed Forces chief stated that ABRI would take a firm stance against the provocative mission of the Portuguese ferry.

Members of ABRI on the [word indistinct] line, according to the general, particularly the Navy, are aware of what they should do in defending the sovereignity of the Republic of Indoensia in compliance with the existing law and regulations.

The Indonesian Navy has sent six warships to guard East Timor waters. They have been ordered to give Expresso a warning shoot when necessary.

Passengers Expect To Be Turned Back

BK1003072992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0606 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Darwin, Mar 6 (OANA/ANTARA)—Passengers of Portugal's so-called peace boat Lusitania Expresso, who are going to the youngest province of Indonesia, East Timor, for what they claim to be a humanitarian mission apparently are certain they will be turned back as Indonesia seems determined to declare its waters closed for the bo[illegible].

Captain of Expresso, Luis dos Santos, said an hour before the boat's departure from Darwin Monday evening that if Indonesia blockaded its waters he did not want to be the one to start hostilities.

Meanwhile, the local television station, Channel 8, reported that Expresso was expected to be met by Indonesian ships, early in the morning, Wednesday.

A passenger on the ship, David Nason, said through a telephone conversation that Expresso's latest position was 220 miles from the territorial waters of East Timor, if Indonesia stated that its waters to be 12 miles from the land.

"So far I have not seen any Indonesian plane or ship," Nason said.

Nothern Territory's main print media, the NT News, put the news on the boat's departure on an inside page in what could be described as a soft and balanced reporting.

Meawhile, its editorial stated that if the boat's captain persisted and provoked a serious incident, the only people who would pay for it were the East Timorese.

"It won't be the students on the Expresso. They will go back to their comfortable countries to resume studies," it said adding that it would not be the crew, either as they were all on wages paid by the contributors of the mission.

It won't be the East Timor trouble makers group (GPK) Fretilin in Darwin because they will not be on the boat, it stated.

Monday evening, chief minister of the Northern Territory, Marshall Perron, who so far has always been known as a pro-Indonesian government official on the East Timor issue, said the Expresso mission was "A political stunt by the Portuguese Government. [no end quote as received]

Funds Ready for Deportation

BK1003103292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The Department of Finance has always provided funds for the deportation of aliens considered to have violated Indonesia's immigration laws. The funds will be disbursed through relevant agencies. Speaking to reporters on the possible deportation of passengers of the Portuguese ship "Lusitania Expresso" if the ship insists on berthing in Dili, (Vasilius Ruro), chief of the Public Relations Division of the Department of Finance said the funds to cover the deportation expenses are unlimited.

If the Portuguese ship indeed manages to berth in Dili and its passengers violate the immigration laws, they will not have to stay long in East Timor because the Indonesian Government has funds ready to deport them. He noted, however, that the Department of Finance is not authorized to decide on how long an alien will be held before he is deported.

Dailies View Situation

BK1003092192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 10 Mar 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] According to SUARA KARYA, the existence of the Lusitania Expresso group was the result of the unsuccessful outcome of a political campaign undertaken by some former Portuguese political veterans and their supporters. In fact, it could be considered that there is no global attention directed toward the group at all because Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, during his diplomatic mission to several countries, had clarified to them the actual incidents which occured in Dili. The countries were previously influenced concerning the Dili incident by a group of former Portuguese political veterans and their foreign supporters. Therefore, Minister Ali Alatas' clarification of the Dili incident became clearer to those nations. SUARA KARYA considers that Indonesia has embarked on a correct attitude in facing the Lusitania Expresso issue—that it has to resort to actions according to the country's existing regulations and not to be swayed by provocative actions of the Expresso passengers who are made up of international provocateur agents masquerading as students.

Touching on the same issue, MERDEKA firmly stated that there would be no other alternative to be taken against any foreign party out to challenge our sovereignty and integrity except to totally eliminate them—whatever the risk may be. According to this daily, with all the efforts and concessions that have been undertaken, no further considerations should be given. MERDEKA questions why the government is still reluctant to face up to Portugal's tricks of political manuevering. Could such a reluctance arise because of Indonesia's dependency on foreign loans? Our objectives are clear and every action and step undertaken by us is meant to uphold our national sovereignty and integrity from being destroyed.

PELITA supports any action that the Indonesian Government deems appropriate—whether to chase the vessel away or tow it to the nearest port and deport all its passengers. However, the action to be taken by Indonesia should be given top priority.

Laos

LPA Issues 'Instruction' on Party Anniversary

BK0903141592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Instruction issued by the Lao People's Army General Political Department on organizing the celebration of the 37th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party to the command committees at all levels, the party committees of all units, and the political organizations at all levels in the entire Army; dated 2 March 1992]

[Text] March 22 marks the 37th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]—spanning from 22 March 1955 to 22 March 1992.

The inception of the LPRP constituted an important historical event of the Lao nation. The incident has become a factor which has decided all victories for the Lao revolution in struggling for national liberation and national defense and construction. The LPRP is the continuator of the revolutionary cause of the Indochinese Communist Party. Over the past 37 years, the LPRP has guided the multiethnic Lao people in the revolutionary struggle to bringing about independence, freedom, and prosperity to the country. The celebration of the 37th founding anniversary of the LPRP comes at a time when the entire Lao party, army, and people are joyously and systematically organizing the implementation the spirit of the resolution outlined at the Fifth LPRP Congress, reflecting the appreciation of the various contents of the party's spirit, such as the fourth resolution of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee; the resolution on defending the nation, peace, and (?neutrality); the resolution adopted at the seventh nationwide conference on organizational work; and so forth.

To express our gratitude toward the LPRP and to celebrate the party founding anniversary this year with profound substance, the Lao People's Army [LPA] General Political Department has issued the instruction with the following contents:

Objectives and expectations

1. To allow cadres, party members, and the party's masses to clearly understand the talented, capable, and clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP in the past 37 years in general, and in the past year in particular, so that they will further increase their confidence in the party leadership, closely unite around the party Central Committee on the basis of the unification in their ideology, organization, views, and the party's line and policies; provide protection and security in all fields to party and state leaders; resolutely resist all schemes of the enemies aimed at dividing and destroying the party and undermining the leading role and status of the party.

2. To continue enhancing the true nature of the party, army, and all units; enhance the achievements and victories won by the units in the past; pay attention to consolidating the units so that actual fundamental changes in all fields will occur within them; resolutely rectify all shortcomings; resist all acts of negativism which have resulted in the deterioration of the revolutionary nature of our cadres and party members; and develop a sense of mastership, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency and in building strength by ourselves to march forward together.

3. To seize this opportunity to propagate and popularize the status, role, and influence of the party in an extensive manner among the masses in the entire army and people, aimed at increasing their confidence in the party leadership and allowing them to actively train and forge

themselves into good party members and to mobilize emulation campaigns to translate into reality the spirit of the resolution adopted at the fifth party congress.

Contents

1. To organize a study of the fourth resolution of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee, the speech of the comrade chairman of party Central Committee, the content of the resolution adopted at the seventh natiowide conference on organizational work, and the direction and tasks for national defense work for 1992; convince cadres, party members, and the party's masses to firmly grasp the party's contents, views, direction, and principles regarding the cause of restructuring in our country.

2. The organizing of the publicity of the contents of the various aforementioned resolutions of the party must be directly linked with the actual observation, evaluation, inspection, and implementation of these resolutions by all units and localities. Strong and weak points and shortcomings of all units and individual persons must be identified so that appropriate solutions can be mapped out.

3. On the basis of studying and appreciating the various resolutions of the party and identifying strong and weak points, detailed plans of action must be worked out aimed at allowing all units and localities to successfully fulfill the tasks entrusted by the higher level. Objectives of the emulation campaigns must be outlined to link with the movement to build faithful, firm, and strong party units and all-round strong units so that they can be realized.

4. Organize a study of the speech of the comrade chairman of the party Central Committee, if ever delivered, on the occasion of the 37th founding anniversary of the LPRP as well as documents on the history and traditions of the LPRP in a manner suitable to the actual conditions in each unit.

Methods for Organizing the Implementation

1. To launch a movement to profoundly engage in political activity within the party committees in the entire army in accordance with a plan outlined by the LPA General Political Department, aimed at creating new changes in all fields as spelled out in the fourth resolution of the Fifth LPRP Central Committee and the seventh nationwide conference on organizational work. Key cadres in particular are required to engage in this political activity before 22 March.

2. The celebration of the party founding anniversary this year must be carried out in a simple form by placing an emphasis on substance and relying on party units as fundamental factors. Gatherings of cadres and party members are to be carried out at those army units at the brigade and division levels. If favorable conditions prevail, members of local administrations and retired senior cadres and party members living in the areas where these units are located should be invited to participate in the gatherings to hear lectures recalling the traditions of the army. Departments and divisions attached to the ministry and at the center must attend lectures organized by the LPA General Political Department. Details of such lectures will be sent to the units concerned later.

3. Efforts must be made to heighten a sense of revolutionary vigilance and to stand ready to fight to defend the country and to maintain security and social order.

4. After fulfilling all the above-mentioned tasks, a clear-cut report with statistics on their outcome, strong and weak points, favorable conditions, and difficulties must be submitted to the LPA General Political Department.

Slogans

1. Long live the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. Long live the majestic and noble LPRP.
3. Let us heighten the leadership role of the party in the cause of restructuring.
4. Pay attention to building party foundations into faithful, firm, and all-round strong units.
5. Long live the spirit of 22 March.

Upon receiving this instruction, all units are instructed to strictly and correctly study and implement it.

[Dated] Vientiane, 2 March 1992
[Signed] Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva

LPA General Political Department.

Memorandum Signed With Burma Border Committee

BK0903153592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 7 March, a joint memorandum was signed in Vientiane between the technical border committees of Laos and Myanmar [Burma] following the conclusion of the fifth meeting of these committees.

Signing the memorandum on the Lao side was Ouan Phommachak, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Second Department, and on the Myanmar side, U Nyunt Maung Shein, director of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Border Affairs Department, in the presence of Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister and cochairman of the Laos-Myanmar Border Committee, and U Maung Maung Lay, Myanmar ambassador to Laos.

The memoramdum spells out the joint operations between the Border Committees of Laos and Myanmar in the second phase which began in (?October) 1991. The fundamental work in this phase was the erection of the border markers, the survey of the Mekong River, conducting aerial photography, and other work. The memorandum also took note of several other tasks which must be jointly executed by the two sides in the future.

The Myanmar-Laos technical border committee led by U Nyunt Muang Shein arrived in Laos for a working visit on 2 March. In addition to attending the fifth meeting with the Laos-Myanmar technical border committee on 3 March, the delegation also called on Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister.

UNDCP, Burma Group Hold Drug Control Meeting

BK0603102392 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 7 (KPL)—The meeting was held from 2 to 6 March 1992 between the delegation of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] headed by H.E. [His Excellency] U. Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs of the Union of Myanmar, the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by H.E. Souban Salitthilat, chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision and vice-minister for foreign affairs, and the delegation of the United Nations International Drug Control Program [UNDCP] headed by Mr. William Beachner, with full and extensive discussions on cooperation in drug abuse control between Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], Myanmar and the UNDCP.

The three delegations also visited the possible site of a project in the province of Luang Namtha and were received by the governor of the province.

During the discussions, the representatives of the delegations affirmed and appreciated the positive development of contacts and explorations among all parties concerned on Lao-Myanmar cooperation in drug abuse control since 1990. Through discussions, the representatives found a convergence of views on the objectives and activities of the project.

The project aims to reduce trafficking in narcotic drugs and chemicals used in the refining of heroin across the Lao-Myanmar border, to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in areas adjacent to the border through economic and social development programmes in order to improve the living conditions of the people, in particular of those subjected to opium cultivation, and to reduce the demand for and local consumption of narcotic drugs in the border areas of the Lao PDR and Myanmar.

UNDCP confirms its readiness to support concerted activities by the Lao PDR and Myanmar in their border areas for the purpose of preventing trafficking, abuse, and illicit cultivation of narcotic drugs.

UNDCP will endeavor to raise the necessary funds from donors provided that the Lao PDR and Myanmar jointly identify activities.

All activities will be carried out strictly in accordance with the principle of respect for the sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of each country.

The principle of reciprocity will be applied in regard to the implementation of concerted activities. There will be UNDCP personnel, performing the function of technical advisers charged with the responsibility to provide direct assistance in the implementation of the project, working under the head of the UNDCP, in full consultation with the two concerned governments. The UNDCP advisers will accomplish their tasks in the location where the project will be executed.

The existing national laws against illicit trafficking will be respected and enforced. UNDCP is prepared to provide assistance with a view to facilitating the transition away from opium poppy cultivation.

Philippines

Malacanang Formally Asks U.S. To Clean Bases

HK1003105592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 7 Mar 92 p 6

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] Malacanang formally asked the United States yesterday to clean the bases of any toxic wastes.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon conveyed the Philippine request to U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner during a meeting at Malacanang yesterday.

Drilon said, "We brought to his attention the concern of the public in general about the report of toxic waste and we emphasized to him that indeed, this should be investigated and we do hope that as a leader of environmental protection, the United States will do its share in cleaning up the premises if there are toxic wastes."

Wisner, who has always maintained that the wastes deposited in Subic Bay are not hazardous reportedly told Drilon: "Yes, we are a responsible nation. We are investigating it with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and at this point, we are investigating the report of the General Accounting Office [GAO]."

It was the U.S. GAO which reported that "significant environmental damage" has been made in Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base because of the failure of U.S. military forces to observe environmental safety standards required under U.S. laws.

"I am confident they will do their share," Drilon said expressing confidence that the U.S. would help clean up the environment in spite of the GAO's observation that the U.S. is not required to do this.

He hinted that the U.S. would have more problems if it chose to ignore the environmental damage its military presence has caused in the Philippines.

"I'm sure they'll have their own concerns if, in fact, they will neglect to clean up the waste, if indeed there are wastes," Drilon said.

Drilon also indicated Malacanang will veto a portion of the bases conversion bill providing for the appointment of the Olongapo City mayor to the chairmanship of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Communist Leader Calls U.S. Withdrawal 'A Ploy'

HK0603143692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 1200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Jose Maria Sison, a high-ranking leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines, believes that there is no truth in the United States announcement that it will totally withdraw its troops from the Philippines. Sison said that the United States' plan to withdraw from the military bases is simply a ploy. He believes that an extention for their stay will be forged even before the one-year deadline for their withdrawal ends.

Japanese To Invest in Country Before Elections

HK1003052592 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] An investment mission from Japan and the Board of Investments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. According to Trade Secretary Lilian Bautista, the hope is that Japanese investments in the country will increase now that the accord has been signed. DZMM Radio Patrol reports that the mission is prepared to begin investing in the country even before the national election. The Japanese investment mission is composed of members of the manufacturing, electronics, telecommunications, and warehousing sectors. The Japanese investors are reportedly interested in availing themselves of Philippine labor, hence their wish to open businesses here.

Government: Agreement With Taiwan 'Not Official'

HK1003103192 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 10 Mar 92 p 3

[By Arthur I. Bairuad]

[Text] The Philippine government yesterday assured the People's Republic of China (PROC) that the "investments protection agreement" entered into between Manila and Taipei was not a government-to-government accord and therefore not a violation of the country's One-China policy.

Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Asia and the Pacific Romualdo Ong made this statement after Beijing expressed concern over the signing of the investment agreement between Manila and Taipei last February 28.

"We observed carefully the political and diplomatic parameters in this undertaking," Ong told diplomatic reporters. "We see no problem with that agreement. It was not an official state-to-state agreement."

According to Ong, the agreement was not "official in nature," and pointed to the fact that the accord was signed between two public corporations, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO). Ong added that what Beijing is opposed to was the signing of "any official agreement" that would recognize Taiwan as a separate political entity.

Both the MECO and the TECO are quasi-government agencies which handle unofficial contacts between Manila and Taipei since the Philippine severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1978.

The joint communique signed by the Philippines and China when they established official ties in 1978 provided that Manila would recognize only the Beijing government as the sole and legitimate representative of the whole Chinese people. Beijing regards Taiwan as its 27th province and therefore an inalienable part of its territory.

On Friday, the Chinese embassy in Manila issued a statement which raised serious concerns over the agreement signed between Manila and Taipei.

More Aid Sought at Consultative Group Meeting

HK1003103592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 10 Mar 92 p 10

[By Ernesto Tolentino]

[Text] The Philippines will attempt to secure more official development assistance (ODA) and financial support for its debt burden reduction program during the Consultative Group meeting on the Philippines in Hong Kong on Thursday.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao, in an update on the preparations for the third pledging session for the Philippine assistance program (PAP), told President Aquino that the Philippine panel attending the meeting will also take steps to ensure sustained ODA flows "for essential, critical, investment-support projects" even during the transition period (referring to the end of the Aquino administration this June 30) [to] avoid unnecessary delays.

He indicated this would be achieved by discussing with members of the Consultative Group, consisting of donor countries and multilateral financial institutions, and finding solutions to problems encountered by the government in the implementation of ODA-funded projects.

The Philippines will likewise use the forum to draw new financial support for priority sectoral projects; electric power and power supply, environmental policies and poverty alleviation.

Reforms introduced by the Aquino government, as well as its performance in the implementation of stabilization measures, will also be presented by the Philippine panel to the Consultative Group organized by the World Bank (WB), and give "a broad indication of continuing concerns that the next Administration may wish to address as priorities."

The finance secretary, who will lead the Philippine panel to the meeting, did not indicate the amount of fresh ODA commitments from donors in this third pledging would likely pledge to the PAP, which was designed to underpin democracy in the country and revive its battered economy. [sentence as published]

Records show that the two previous pledging sessions generated nearly $7 billion in fund commitments from various donor countries and institutions, led by Japan and the U.S.: $3.5 billion at its launch in 1989, and an additional $3.3 billion in 1991.

The PAP pledging session was originally set for last January, but was re-set for March following the delay in the approval by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of the country's bid for a new standby program, which finally came last week.

The administration had earlier said that it would seek some $600 million in financial support from the WB and Japan official credits for the debt service reduction (debt-for-bond) component of the country's debt initiative.

Proceeds of these fresh loans were designed to enhance a portion of the country's international reserves earmarked for the debt reduction program.

Under the debt service reduction scheme, a total of $4 billion in outstanding medium to long-term commercial debts will be restructured for up to 17-15 years through their conversion into bonds that carry reduced interest rates.

Succession Bill Proposed as Contingency Measure

HK1003063592 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Malacanang should consider the proposal to pass a succession bill which will appoint an interim president, in the event that the Congress does not proclaim a winning candidate when the president's term of office ends on 30 June. According to Senator Alberto Romulo, it will do no harm if the Congress passes this bill and if it is signed by President Corazon Aquino as a contingency measure to cover any untoward events. The senator emphasized that it would be wise for the government to be thus prepared to prevent any ill effects to the country, should Congress be unable to proclaim the new president on or before 30 June.

Senator Joey Lina has long pressed for the passage of this bill which also stipulates that the chief justice of the Supreme Court be made interim president while vote canvassing is ongoing.

Senator Romulo added that when Congress opens its session on 24 May, the canvassing of electoral returns will have begun; hence before that date, a special session should enact the succession bill.

AFP Chief Postpones Talks With Communist Leader

HK1003005592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] President Aquino has confirmed that the government is carrying out negotiations with the communist rebels in order to end the insurgency in the country. The president made this confirmation after she reported the postponement of a trip to Europe by General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, to talk to communist leader Jose Maria Sison. Earlier, the president said the government had made a genuine offer to the rebels to hold a peaceful dialogue at the local level. She did not elaborate on why Abadia's trip has been postponed.

Aquino Denies NDF Claim of Ongoing Peace Talks

HK1003103892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Mar 92 pp 10, 12

[By Cynthia D. Balanan]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday questioned the sincerity of communist leaders to sit down and hold peace talks with the government to end the 23-year-old insurgency in the Philippines.

"Serious sincere negotiations are normally conducted away from the attention of media and the public," the President said in a press statement.

The President was referring to recent reports quoting Jose Ma. Sison, alleged chairman of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, as saying that the government and the National Democratic Front [NDF] were moving toward negotiations to end the armed conflict.

Ms. Aquino denied there are ongoing peace negotiations between the military and rebels on the national level.

A report claimed that a government delegation led by Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Lisandro Abadia was supposed to have left for Europe to meet Sison who is based in Utrecht, Holland.

Press Secretary Horacio Paredes quickly denied the report.

"Abadia's trip to Europe never took place, so there's no story here."

When asked if there was indeed a plan to send Abadia to Europe to meet Sison, Paredes said it would be difficult for the government to negotiate when "everybody's making propaganda."

The NDF, however, denied Malacanang's claim that all it was doing was to make propaganda.

In a press statement, the NDF said it was ready for peace talks on the national level which, it said, Ms. Aquino opposed.

It quoted the President as saying: "Our last decision on talks was to pursue the peace process on the local level. There has been no movement from that position."

The NDF accused the President of ignoring the calls of peace advocates to sit down for serious peace negotiations.

The NDF said that in September 1990 it presented a formal peace proposal to a government delegation in Hong Kong.

The NDF proposal called for an agreement based on mutual respect for human rights and international humanitarian law as a first step toward a comprehensive political settlement to end the insurgency problem.

Former Justice Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III confirmed that such a meeting took place in Hong Kong last year.

Meanwhile, the Katipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas [Association of Filipino Aborigines] (KAMP) said yesterday that more tribal Filipinos were displaced because of the allged "total war policy" of the Aquino Government.

KAMP said the military's counter-insurgency operations last year resulted in the evacuation of 33,858 tribesmen in 11 provinces.

KAMP also alleged that not all military operations were intended to run after communist rebels, citing what it claimed was the relationship between the military and local and foreign business interests.

It said military operations usually occur in areas rich in timber and mineral resources forcing the tribesmen to leave their lands to give way to big business.

Manglapus on Peace Initiative

HK1003102092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 10 Mar 92 p 6

[Text] Brussels—Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus called the National Democratic Front's [NDF] peace initiative as a mere "propaganda ploy meant to internationalize an internal problem," as he rejected an NDF proposal to hold negotiations abroad.

Manglapus, who is in Brussels for meetings with Christian Democrats in Europe, was reacting to a statement by Jose Ma. Sison, titular head of the Communist Party of the Philippines, who made the proposal from the NDF headquarters in Utrecht, the Netherlands, during an interview published by Manila newspapers.

"They (the NDF) want a Kampuchea-type peace conference that would internationalize an internal problem, hence the proposal to hold negotiations abroad with an intermediary third party to steer the talks," Manglapus said. He added that the NDF wanted to enhance its image with the international community as being more earnest in seeking an end to the 22-year old conflict while portraying the government as being bent on perpetuating the problem.

Manglapus reiterated the government's position that it has no plans to resume negotiations after peace initiatives on the national level failed several times.

The government's tough stance on the issue followed the massacre of 40 soldiers on Feb 15 in Surigao del Sur and the killing of 10 civilian employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources last Feb 23 in South Cotabato by the Communist New People's Army [NPA]. The NPA is the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines which [is] under the umbrella organization of the National Democratic Front.

Survivors in the Surigao ambush claimed that young NPA guerillas executed ranking soldiers and beheaded some of them and even gouged their eyes. This incident is being investigated by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights.

NDF Sets Rules for Campaigning in Certain Areas

HK1003101892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Mar 92 p 28

[By Cynthia de Leon]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro—The National Democratic Front [NDF] of Northern Mindanao is allowing candidates for the May 11 elections to campaign "anytime or at will" inside rebel-held areas, subject to certain conditions.

In a statement sent to a local newspaper, the NDF asked the candidates to serve advance notice as a "precaution" before entering guerilla zones.

"If making contact with the NDF local units is impossible, candidates or their agents may use the established media to inform us," said the statement signed by "Ka [Comrade] Migo," the nome de guerre of renegade priest Frank Navarro, who is generally known as the NPA [New People's Army] chieftain in the region.

"Candidates or their agents have nothing to worry about provided that they have no hidden motives other than to campaign," the statement said.

The NPA statement tends to belie military reports that communist insurgents are asking safe conduct fees of up to P100,000 [pesos] from candidates who want to campaign in rebel-influenced areas.

But the NPA statement listed several "strictly prohibited" acts, including bringing along armed bodyguards or military escorts, vote-buying, and "any suspicious conduct."

"NPA units will not hesitate to take drastic actions against those who will sow terror or do intelligence work for the fascist Armed Forces in NDF areas," the statement said.

Communists Said To Form Revolutionary Government

HK0703053292 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] has formed a provisional revolutionary government in Kalinga-Apayao. This was confirmed by Mayor Bienvenido Verzola of Luna, Kalinga-Apayao. He said that the NPA has become stronger in Marag Valley, despite the series of military offensives in the area. Verzola's area of jurisdiction includes Marag Valley. He said that the communist rebels in northern Luzon have a list of the people appointed the revolutionary government's leaders. This was based on documents seized by the Philippine Army's 503d Infantry Brigade in previous encounters. Heading the revolutionary government in Kalinga-Apayao is a Comrade Belen.

Police Expose NPA Plan To Kidnap Executives

HK1003110092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Mar 92 p 12

[By Roberto R. Requitina]

[Text] The Philippine National Police (PNP) yesterday revealed another plan of communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels to kidnap and hold for ransom logging concessionaires and sawmill operators because they have failed to meet the imposed monthly quota of "revolutionary tax."

Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief, citing a report by Regional Command (Recom) 3 Director Pantaleon Dumlao Jr, said the NPA plan is codenamed "Operation Kamagong" [Operation Philippine Hard Wood] based on documents seized from NPA leaders in Aurora province.

Intelligence agents said the rebels oppose the total log ban in the country for fear that funds from loggers will be drastically cut.

Dumlao said the plan is similar to "Operation Dirty Job" launched jointly by the NPA General Command, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Manila-Rizal Regional Committee, and the NPA's Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) in Metro Manila.

Senior Supt. [Superintendent] Reynaldo G. Wycoco, PNP spokesman, citing declassified documents seized from Romeo Gonzales, alias "Tomas," alleged deputy secretary of the Aurora Provincial Committee under the Central Luzon Party Committee, said the launching of the operation was discussed in a letter sent to Tomas by Antonio Llongson, alias "Ka [Comrade] Julian," alleged secretary of the Aurora Provincial Committee.

Gonzales was nabbed by intelligence agents of Recom 3 last February.

In the letter, Llongson proposed the immediate launching of the kidnap-for-ransom oeprations on selected targets this year as an alternate measure to boost its funds, Dumlao said.

Dumlao said Llongson complained of a big drop in the income from "revolutionary taxation" scheme imposed on loggers and sawmill operators.

Llongon cited the log ban enforced in selected areas of Central Luzon as the cause of the loggers' inability to meet the monthly quota imposed by the party, police said.

Dumlao said the launching of the plan was approved by CLRC [Central Luzon Regional Committee] secretary Roberto Tacbad, alias "Ka Roy," and Geronomo Pasetes, alias "Ka Chit," CLRC deputy secretary and head of the CLRC Regional Finance Staff during a meeting early this year.

Thailand

Ministries Want To 'Restructure' U.S. Ties

BK1003012592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 92 p 4

[By Peter Mytri Ungphakon]

[Text] Last week, top officials from two ministries told their American counterparts separately that Thailand would like to revise—the Foreign Ministry's preferred word is "restructure"—its relationship with the United States.

According to some accounts, the Americans had no reply. The cause of this loss of words remains to be seen, but the Thai Foreign and Commerce Ministries clearly feel that the end of the cold war and the increase in trade pressure from Washington justifies some serious adjustment in Bangkok.

As far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned, the rethink is part of Saranrom Palace's review of Thailand's diplomatic needs with the approaching end of the Anan government's term and the coming to power of a new elected administration.

In bureaucratic and administrative terms, two key questions are emerging: how well the permanent officials in the ministry will be able to work with elected politicians, and how well it can share its work with other government agencies as the issues become more complex.

In foreign policy terms, the ministry envisages a greater need to attend to economic issues, concentrating on two broad areas: economic relations with other countries in general and a rethink of Thailand's relationship with the United States in particular; and the intensifying international competition for resources that is already dominating relations with the Indochina states, Burma and

Malaysia—fishing, forestry, the resources of the Mekong River, petroleum and ecological balance are among the principle areas of dispute.

These administrative and policy questions are interlinked. The complexity of economic relations and resource disputes increases the Foreign Ministry's need to develop a good understanding with whoever takes responsibility for foreign policy after the election. It also requires the Foreign Ministry to expand its own capabilities and to work more closely with other ministries.

The list of agencies concerned with these issues is rapidly lengthening. The Commerce Ministry handles international trade negotiations, not entirely with the approval of the diplomats at Saranrom Palace. The Interior Ministry handles immigration—for example the 20,000 Chinese that are said to have entered Thailand illegally—and certain aspects of the problems at the border with Malaysia. The Industry Ministry handles petroleum and other questions. Agriculture is responsible for fishing; Finance for tariffs and financial services; Transport and Communications for landing rights; and so on.

One of the ministries most closely involved in foreign policy, and with a permanent representative at Saranrom Palace, is Defence. The military are under pressure from the Foreign Ministry to loosen up their close ties with the Americans.

This revision—or "restructuring"—of relations with the United States could prove to be the most dramatic change in Thai foreign policy in the near future. Foreign Ministry officials stress that their choice of the word "restructuring" means no fundamental change in the friendship between Bangkok and Washington. Nevertheless, the topics they have raised suggest that the changes will not be cosmetic either.

At the two meetings last week, the Thai officials said they wanted to amend the 1966 US-Thai Treaty of Amity. The first to raise the subject was Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin at an informal meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon in Bangkok on March 2. The second was Commerce Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsarasena during bilateral trade negotiations with the U.S. team led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Sandra Kristoff, also in Bangkok, two days later.

The timing could have been coincidental. Indeed, Commerce Ministry officials, who have taken the brunt of the U.S. trade pressure, complain that their requests for the Foreign Ministry to rethink the close Thai-U.S. political and security ties have fallen on deaf ears.

A principal feature of the Amity Treaty is that it allows U.S. companies to set up branches or subsidiaries in Thailand with virtually the same rights as Thai-owned companies—known as "national treatment"—except in certain key sectors such as inland transport, banking or agricultural trade.

The treaty's revision would put Thai-U.S. economic relations on a basis that conforms more with the international rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and in particular the new topics being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

One of the principles of GATT is that countries should not discriminate between each other. Under the Amity Treaty, Thailand offers the Americans favourable treatment that might have to be extended to other countries if new GATT rules are adopted.

But the request to revise the treaty, which either party can terminate with one year's notice, is also apparently motivated by resentment of continual U.S. trade pressure. Of particular concern are the threats overhanging Thai exports because of American dissatisfaction with intellectual property rights protection and Thai trade barriers against banking and other service industries.

Thai officials have been searching for some way to increase Thailand's bargaining power, and the treaty's revision could be one method. Another idea could arouse greater heat.

Even more recently, topmost Foreign Ministry officials were heard to ask senior Thai military officers point blank if it might be possible to reduce the number of joint Thai-U.S. military exercises from the present 42 to perhaps only one—Cobra Gold, the big annual exercise. The military reportedly replied that the many exercises are different and involve different branches of the armed forces.

The question reflects the Foreign Ministry's thinking that the U.S. security umbrella is both unnecessary and an illusion. Thailand should no longer consider itself to be a damsel in distress, nor one that is so attractive for U.S. security interests that the Americans will do anything to win the damsel's hand, some officials say.

The ministry believes Thailand is not under threat from its neighbours, particularly Vietnam, both because of the end of the cold war and because Vietnam is economically in no position to fight.

And it questions whether the United States would come to Thailand's assistance if military conflict with Vietnam or anyone else did break out—despite the continued existence of the Manila Treaty that set up the now defunct Southeast Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO).

Some senior members of the Thai military are said to be uneasy with this view. They are understood to believe that suspicions between Thailand and Vietnam remain and that so long as the two are still wary of each other, an outbreak of fighting remains a risk.

These officers' opinion on whether the United States would come to Thailand's assistance if fighting broke out seems to be closer to that of the Foreign Ministry, however.

Some officers with first-hand experience are quoted as saying that when there was intense fighting along the Cambodian border Thailand asked for U.S. military assistance, a request that Washington rejected. So instead Thailand turned to China, which was promptly forthcoming.

Nevertheless, the military are said to believe that U.S. security assistance should still be sought and that it could be forthcoming in times of genuine need.

On the other hand, senior Thai diplomats reportedly believe that some of their military colleagues are convinced that the United States is not interested in setting up bases in Thailand, even after the Americans have left the Philippines. This, the diplomats apparently conclude, shows that it is possible to persuade the military that the Americans might not view Thailand as a country of security interest.

The situation is complicated, however, by recent U.S. statements stressing America's insistence on retaining a security presence in the region. If this emphasis is genuine, then the Americans could be seeking some Thai facilities for their own strategic purposes—but not bases—and at the same time be unwilling to provide security for Thailand.

That would add a second bargaining chip for dealing with the United States in issues such as trade disputes. If Washington continues its aggression on trade issues, Thailand could show reluctance to grant the Americans the facilities they are seeking, and this could be done without damaging Thailand's own security interests because U.S. help would not be forthcoming if Thailand were attacked by a neighbour, according to this line of thinking.

In their discussions with the military however, the diplomats stress Thailand's lack of importance to the Americans in comparison to other regional countries. One indicator is the fact that Washington has posted a career diplomat and a first-time ambassador to Bangkok. The U.S. ambassador in Jakarta, by contrast, is a political appointee.

Some military officers say the Americans would prefer to set up facilities such as ship repair in Indonesia because the island state offers control of strategically important sealanes.

Some independent observers see an additional significance in the debate between the Foreign Ministry and the military. If the Foreign Ministry can obtain the military's backing for its new approach towards the United States, then top officials such as Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa will have greater bargaining power when working with elected politicians, some analysts say.

The debate between the diplomats and the military is likely to continue.

The question of relations with Vietnam is tied up in another issue that is in the spotlight right now: Thailand's request for the Mekong River development committee to be revamped. Thailand does not want Cambodia's return to the committee to mean a revival of the veto-principle proclaimed by the four lower Mekong countries—Laos, South Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand—just before the Communist take-over in Indochina froze the full committee's activities in 1975.

The proclamation would allow Vietnam, which is worried that its rice-growing delta region could be harmed, to veto Khong-Chi-Mun and other projects in northeast Thailand. The Thai Foreign Ministry is trying to develop a formula that would allow Thailand to continue with its projects while keeping the Vietnamese confident that their fresh water supply will not be jeopardised—no mean task considering the controversy over the accuracy of water flow calculations and environmental impact analyses that already surrounds dam projects.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakun's shuttle diplomacy last week and this, in an attempt to convene an informal ministerial meeting on Thailand's Mekong proposal next week, highlights the growing sensitivity of natural resources in the region.

It also underscores the need to coordinate work with technical agencies, and the non-governmental organisations that are active in the northeast, for example. Explaining Thai foreign policy to the public will be an added challenge in these circumstances.

Those who take over responsibility for foreign policy after the election, as well as the expert officials who will serve them, have much to think about.

Commerce Ministry Defends Russian Rice Deal

BK1003011592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Mar 92 p B16

[Text] Commerce Ministry officials yesterday defended the criteria used in the allocation of quotas for the 500,000-tonne rice sale to Russia, and insisted they have been fair despite charges of favouritism.

Top officials refused to be quoted but emphasized that some exporters would naturally react negatively to the criteria of selection. They said the government considered the method of allotment announced by the Foreign Trade Department as fair and appropriate, and that there is no corruption involved.

Critics asked why the ministry had chosen to award a quota of 175,000 tonnes to 19 exporters who took part in last year's government programme to uplift domestic rice prices. The quota was the second announced by the Foreign Trade Department. The first quota, also of 175,000 tonnes, was allocated based equally on exporters' 1991 export records and their current stocks.

The second quota of 175,000 tonnes was given at a ratio of 1 to 7.74 tonnes, meaning that every tonne of rice purchased by exporters in the 1991 government programme would be worth a quota of 7.74 tonnes in the Russian deal. This method drew controversy and allegations of unfairness and corruption.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on last week responded angrily to a report which suggested the allegation. One of his top aides yesterday insisted that the method is fair as far as farmers' interest is concerned since they will be able to sell rice at possibly higher prices. He reasoned that exporters would compete to buy rice from millers and farmers to meet the orders from Russia. Thus, prices should be propped up and reach the targeted range of Bt [baht] 3,800-4,000 per tonne.

The source said in the future the government might also use this method to allocate quotas to exporters given that the traders have shown willingness to take risks by participating in the government's rice price support programme. Awarding quotas to these exporters doesn't mean they are favoured. It should be borne in mind that joining government programmes carries a certain risk.

The source emphasized that export quotas especially from the Russian deal—which command a relatively high price—are not meant to compensate exporters for a loss or to reward them for joining government programmes. Exporters could also reject quotas for sale to Russia, he added.

"The method wouldn't have posed problems (or stirred controversy) had the export price in the Russian deal not been as high as US$280 a tonne (FOB) [free on board]. Will exporters fight to get a share if the price is low? It's like, when the government announces it will buy rice, if price is good, everyone wants to offer," he said, suggesting that exporters who do not benefit naturally have different opinion from that of the government regarding the method.

Sources said controversy emerged because the export deal could generate a profit of as high as Bt90 million. However, delivery is over several months from March to November and upward adjustments of domestic rice prices could decrease the anticipated profit or even cause a loss.

When the US$280-a-tonne price is converted in paddy price it is less than Bt4,000 a tonne. Sources said if the Foreign Trade Deartment offers exporters, say, US$260/tonne, the domestic paddy price could fall to Bt3,600.

Aside from allocating a total quota of 350,000 tonnes to exporters, the government is able to discharge its stock of about 50,000 tonnes to end its three-year burden. Sources said government-to-government deals have to be carried out quickly to avoid problems faced in the past.

The remaining 100,000 tonnes are awarded to the Public Warehouse Organization and exporters as bonus quotas for exporters who offer rice in exchange of old government stocks.

Minister Faults Rice Critics

BK0703034192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Mar 92 p 17

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on has lashed out at criticism of the controversial Russian rice deal allocation by exporters in yesterday's Business Post, claiming it was aimed at discrediting the ministry.

In a savage attack, Mr. Amaret labelled the article a "disgusting" piece and claimed the reporters' intention was to force him to "bow down". He accused all Thai journalists of harbouring this intention before storming out of the interview.

Mr. Amaret became enraged when asked to clarify the controversial allocation method.

"Who has the right to judge whether our allocation method is right or wrong? If we were wrong, the next government would review it and I myself am ready to face a probe by the Counter Corruption Commission (CCC). I am confident that my staff (Commerce Ministry officials) handled the case fairly and correctly," he said.

A number of exporters and economists yesterday complained to Business Post that the allocation method for 500,000 tons of rice to be sold to the Russian Federation was arbitrary and favoured only a handful of companies.

Under the method, 175,000 tons of rice was allocated to just 15 rice exporter groups who contributed to last year's 22,600-ton intervention scheme.

Many exporters and economists charged that this method favoured in particular Senthong Rice and Laemthong Rice, which had been granted a portion of almost 40 percent.

"The report is a disgusting piece and it has discouraged my staff who have done their best for the country's benefits," he stormed.

"Do you intend to kill my staff (with the report)? Mr. Amaret added in defence of Foreign Trade Department Director General Charae Chutharatanakun.

He claimed accusations against Mr. Charae were unfair as he had negotiated with difficulties before successfully striking the deal.

Mr. Amaret said he would take complete responsibility for the allocation decision.

"I am ready to face any investigation by the CCC on whether there are any corruption motives behind this," he said.

He said the mass media and academics had no right to judge the decision.

He rejected Thailand Development Research Institute president Dr. Ammar Siamwalla's recommendation that the ministry open a public tender to allocate the rice to exporters.

"It was not useful because the bidding fee would belong to the Government, and the bidding would have a negative impact on local rice prices," he said.

"Are you confident exporters would not undercut the local rice prices?"

Mr. Amaret said the allocation method had been accepted by representatives of the Rice Exportes' Association and approved by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

"I believe the criticism was made by those who lost their benefits from the rice deal so they tried to discredit the ministry," he said.

"If the deal was not a profitable one, I believe there would be no complaints at all."

Mr. Amaret claimed there would still be complaints if the ministry changed its allocation method and granted quotas to all exporters based on their export performances last year.

He claimed the criticism had erupted because some newspaper columnists wanted to force him to bow down. He went on to say all Thai journalists had this intention.

"You have already judged it without asking any questions of me, so it is not useful to ask me at this time," he said and stormed away to his room.

In a related development, a letter was received by the Business Post yesterday, signed "a well-wisher", claiming corruption was behind the Commerce Ministry's allocation method.

The "well-wisher" claimed similar letters had been sent to the Premier, National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and the CCC secretary general, as well as other government agencies.

The person urged the NPKC and the CCC to investigate the matter, claiming it would damage the reputation of the NPKC.

No independent corroboration or verification of these allegations could be immediately obtained.

Trade Expansion Agreement Reached With Mexico

BK1003010392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Mar 92 p B16

[Text] Thailand yesterday reached the first trade expansion agreement with Mexico, presumably an important move in the context of the forthcoming North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

Signatories to the agreement were Deputy Commerce Minister Pridiyathon Thewakun and Mexican Deputy Commerce Minister Pedro Nayola.

The agreement envisages establishment of official-level cooperation between the two parties.

Officials will work to set up consultative mechanisms, organize trade delegations and seminars, and record minutes of discussion on various sectors intended for mutual promotion, said Pridiyathon.

He said the agreement will remarkably benefit Thailand once the NAFTA comes into effect. It will enable Thai exporters to spread their interests to NAFTA member countries—the United States, Mexico and Canada—and to receive privileges in the area of rules of origin.

The accord, initiated by the official visit of Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on in September last year, is expected to widen the trade relationship between the two nations. Mexico and Thailand share similar attitudes to developing trade, especially with regard to liberalization.

Promoted Thai exports to Mexico include jewelry and accessories, textiles, and food products; fishery industry has received encouragement with the Charoen Pokphan Group having made its appearance there. Mexico will export petrochemical products and oil, and chemicals for use in the Thai manufacturing industry.

Mexico is reportedly interested in evolving reciprocal measures to avoid tax duplication. It has suggested consultation on this with the Foreign Affairs and Finance Ministries.

Mexico, however, has rejected Thailand's request for protection to Thai investors on the ground that it has never provided such privilege to any country. It is left to investors to decide whether to invest in the country or not.

Regarding Mexican investment in Thailand, responsible organizations such as the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Board of Investment are likely to be appointed negotiators.

Bangkok Wants To Restructure Mekong Committee

BK0803025092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 92 p 2

[By Peter Maitri Ungphakon]

[Text] Cha-am, Phet Buri—Thailand wants a total restructuring of the Mekong Committee and to discuss its proposal with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia on March 15 or 16.

The move is an attempt to resolve a deadlock that is delaying the committee's work, and to bring Cambodia back into the committee in a manner that will not affect the Khong-Chee-Moon and other development projects in northeastern Thailand.

It is one of the reasons not previously revealed for the postponement of the committee's annual meeting originally scheduled to be held in Chiang Rai last month.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun quietly visited Hanoi and Vientiane last week and is due in Phnom Penh in the next day or two in attempt to persuade the three countries to attend an informal ministerial meeting in Thailand next week.

Controversy over the way in which Cambodia should return to the Mekong Committee has caused Thailand to propose a new set up which would also include China and Burma.

The problem arises because Thailand does not want Cambodia's return to lead to a revival of the full Mekong Committee that was formed in 1957 and put on ice in 1975 following the victory of communist forces in the three Indochinese countries.

After a three-year break, the committee was revived in 1978 in an "interim" form, without Cambodian membership.

Of particular importance to Thailand is the fact that the Interim Mekong Committee did not adopt a declaration made by the full committee in January 1975, shortly before political events overtook the full committee, in which downstream countries such as Vietnam would have the power to veto projects in upstream countries such as Thailand.

Vietnam argues that the return of Cambodia should mean the revival of the full Mekong Comittee in its original form.

Thailand fears this could lead to a Vietnamese veto of the Khong-Chee-Moon project—which would divert water from the Mekong down through the Chee and Moon rivers in northeast Thailand and back into the Mekong further downstream.

Also at risk might be other projects under the Green Isan development programme, officials say.

Thailand has therefore argued that the situation has changed completely since the period up to 1975. At that time, the committee's four members were Thailand, Laos—then a monarchy—South Vietnam and the Khmer Republic of Lon Nol, Mr. Wichian said yesterday.

Since then, a number of development projects have been set up in the three member countries of the interim committee and they should not be put under threat by a return to the rules of the earlier full committee, he said.

Mr. Wichian, who was attending Foreign Ministry seminar at Cha-am between trips to the three Indochinese capitals, explained that Thailand had originally sought a new version of the interim committee, with the Cambodian seat described as belonging to Phnom Penh's Supreme National Council.

This was unacceptable to the Vietnamese, however. So Thailand devised an alternative which would bring in all the countries using the Mekong.

This would increase the bargaining power of the upstream countries, but would also provide the Vietnamese with assurance that dams being built in China will not lead to water shortages in the delta area that is a vital rice growing area feeding both southern and northern Vietnam.

The Thai proposal would also expand the scope of the committee to handle cross-border river transport as well as irrigation, hydroelectric and other projects.

It would include a reorganisation of the Mekong Committee's secretariat. Some Thai officials complain that the secretariat's head, the "executive agent," who is appointed by the UN Development Programme, is too powerful and accountable only to the UN secretary-general.

Some complain that executive agent Chuck Lankester has been inciting Vietnam to object to the northeastern Thai projects.

One key question is whether China will agree to join. Mr. Wichian expressed confidence that the Chinese would accept in order to play a part in Southeast Asian affairs.

Dr. Kian Thirawit of Chulalongkon University's Political Science Faculty said he had been told from informed sources that the initial Chinese reaction had been negative.

Dr. Khien, who is a China specialist and is heading a research project on the Mekong Committee, said that China could be persuaded if Thailand lobbied intensively.

A point in Thailand's favour could be the history of good relations between the two countries and Thailand's past support for Beijing interests, he said.

Dr. Khien said Vietnam has reasonable grounds for concern that the flow to the delta could decline.

Mr. Wichian and other officials argue that Thailand's planned use of Mekong water would maintain an "average minimum flow" during the dry season and would mainly draw water in the rainy season.

In 1991, after his return to Phnom Penh, Prince Sihanouk asked Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin if his country could return to the Mekong Comittee. Mr. Asa replied that the Cambodians would be welcome.

Laotians Cross Border To Escape Fighting

BK0903121792 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] According to Police Colonel Suthin Khieorat, commander of the Border Patrol Police [BPP] force at Serironnayut Camp in Udon Thani Province, fighting in

Laos opposite Ban Huai Suap, Chiang Khan District, Loei Province caused many Laotians to flee to Thailand. The 246th BPP company already pushed these people back. A new round of fighting opposite Tambon Hat Amphon, Pak Chom District, Loei Province drove nearly 100 Laotians across the border. These people are facing shortages of food and clothes.

Fighting in Laos began on 2 March. At 1300 on that day, an unidentified force of approximately 150 men attacked Pak Houai Sao village, Sanakham District, situated across the border from Ban Huai Suap. One Lao soldier and two Lao villagers were killed and 23 homes were burned down. The Lao unit of unknown strength stationed in the village was defeated completely. At 1330 on 6 March, fighting resumed in Ban Khon Chiang, driving 93 Lao villagers into Thai territory. The 246th BPP company pushed them back on 7 March. Another batch of 73 Lao villagers fled into Thailand and stayed at Ban Hat Bia, Tambon Hat Amphon, Pak Chom District, Loei Province. The UN officials at the refugee center at Ban Winai provided these people with mosquito nets, dried food, and rice. These Lao villagers remain on Thai territory today.

While Col. Suthin was receiving a briefing at 1300 on 7 March, an urgent report stated that a squad of 12 Lao soldiers has been fortified at Ban Pak Tap and a Russian-made helicopter was making an inspection flight over the base at Ban Don Piam. As a result, Thai BPP personnel have been instructed to reinforce the border to prevent any incident as it is expected that new fighting will drive more Laotians into Thailand.

Police Seize Weapons Near Cambodian Border

BK1003015992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Mar 92 p 9

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Police yesterday seized a large cache of weapons in the jungle near the border.

The cache, said to be the largest confiscated for three months, included 106 M16 assault rifles, six machine-guns, one AK47 assault rifle, 127 RPG grenades, 100 60mm mortar shells, 60 sticks of gunpowder for 60mm mortar shells and 10,000 rounds of AK47 ammunition.

Acting on a tipoff, Border Patrol Police said they found the arms and ammunition in the undergrowth about 100 metres from a dirt road in Ban Khok Thahan of Tambon Thap Sadet, Ta Phraya District. The weapons were packed in bags and ready to be delivered to an arms trader.

Two Ban Khok Chaeng villagers, named by the police as Samat and But (surnames unknown), are wanted by police for alleged links with arms smuggling. The police believe the pair escaped when the seizure was made.

Vietnam

Comments on Growing Joint Sino Economic Ties

BK1003033292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Vietnam and China have reached an agreement on transport, communications, and posts. The documents were signed in Beijing during the recent visit to China by Vietnamese minister of transport, communications, and post, Bui Danh Luu.

During its three-day visit, ending on Monday, the Vietnamese delegation of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Post signed four agreements with China on those areas. Both sides expressed elation at the signing of those agreements. The two sides committed that the branches concerned will take immediate action to carry out those agreements in an effort to contribute to the agreements reached at the Sino-Vietnamese summit for complete normalization of bilateral relations.

In fact, bilateral Vietnam-China relations have been normalized since the official visit to China of a high-level delegation of Vietnam led by Party General Secretary Do Muoi and Premier Vo Van Kiet. Various fields of bilateral cooperation have been opened up and yielded initial fine results. The two countries have exchanged several delegations. Moreover, border trade activities have been carrying well. These activities were brisk even before bilateral ties were normalized.

The CHINA DAILY reports that companies of Vietnam and China have signed business contracts worth more than $100 million. It is hoped that under feasible conditions, now that relations have returned to normal, trade cooperation will multiply in both scope and scale.

China is planning many joint venture projects with Vietnam. The head of the External Relations Bureau of Guangdong says China should do business with Vietnam as the country has planned market economy. He said prospects for economic cooperation between Vietnam and China are bright.

Meanwhile, the ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC TIMES REVIEW of China comments that despite existing difficulties Vietnam is still a market attractive to foreign business circles, including those from China. Another Chinese newspaper says Vietnam has favorable conditions for foreign investment, namely, a more than 3,000 km coastline, cheap labor force, land and great potentials of farm products and market.

Besides those agreements on transport, communications, and post, China has announced that the rail link between the two countries is about to reopen. The Chinese XINHUA news agency reports that work has completed on the rail portions linking China's Pingxiang with Vietnam's Dong Dang.

These evidences are part of the fact that economic cooperation between Vietnam and China have been developing in all fields. This spells out the common desire of both nations.

Air France To Start Passenger Service

BK0903125892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Air France says that its Boeing 747 will start passenger service from Paris to Vietnam as of 1 May. Air France will be the first Western airlines to fly to the Vietnamese capital. The plane will leave Paris on Friday afternoon and stop over in Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City. It will depart from Hanoi on Saturday afternoon and land at De Gaulle International Airport every Sunday morning.

Dutch Brewer in Joint-Venture To Produce Beer

BK0703145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mar. 7—Heineken-trademarked beer is expected to be made in Vietnam by the end of 1993 through a joint venture involving Singapore-based Heineken International Becheer B-V of Holland and Food Company 2 in Ho Chi Minh City. Work started on December 5, 1991 to build the brewery in the suburban district of Ho Mon.

In the first phase, the brewery will make 50 million liters a year. In the following years, it will raise production accordingly to demand. The second phase will see the brewery's capacity double, and the management board hopes the brewery will begin to pay off in five years and a half. "We are lucky to be here at a favourable time when the Vietnamese Government is implementing open-minded policies to encourage foreign investments" said Mr. A.R. Kilx Wan Heuven, director of Vietnam Brewery Limited.

He said the Singapore Government's decision to lift investment ban on Vietnam had created good conditions to his business. Mr. Heuven said 85 percent of the output would be bottled beer and the rest canned beer. The purpose is to make full use of locally available packages and reduce cost. For the supply of standard bottles, Food Company 2 has made feasibility study on a joint venture to involve Thai Glass of Thailand to build a bottle factory.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Afghan Situation

BK1003153292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Answering the VNA question on the Afghan situation, the SRV Foreign Ministry spokesman said recently that in the past several days Afghan extremist opposition forces wantonly fired on densely populated areas in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, killing or wounding hundreds of civilians, many of them old persons and children. These forces' act and their stubborn rejection of the five-point proposal for a political solution to the Afghan issue as well as of the recent UN Secretary General's proposal on convening a conference of the Afghan factions, totally run counter to the Afghan people's aspiration for peace, and create instability in the region.

The Vietnamese Government and people resolutely denounce these acts and demand an immediate stop to other acts threatening the peaceful life of the Afghan people.

The Vietnamese Government highly appraises the good-willed stand and efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at ending the war and restoring peace. It holds that the best way to resolve the conflict is to have all the Afghan factions sitting at the negotiating table in accordance with the spirit of the UN Secretary General's proposal.

Paper on Prospects of Cooperation With Brunei

BK0803093992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Article by Phuong Ha in 5 March NHAN DAN: "The Bridge of Vietnam-Brunei Friendship"]

[Summary] "Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet's official visit to the Kingdom of Brunei Darussalam—the first by one of our top leaders to a close Southeast Asian neighbor—has built a bridge of friendship between the two and ushered in a new era that meets the interest and aspirations of the two peoples."

Brunei is only about a three-hour flight from Vietnam. With an area of 5,796 square kms, the country is sparsely populated with 250,000 people and is not fully exploited yet. Regaining independence in 1984, Brunei now ranks among the world's richest countries with foreign reserves of 25 billion U.S. dollars, second only to Kuwait. Its annual per-capita income is 20,000 U.S. dollars.

Vietnam and Brunei have many cultural similarities. Our general impression is that Brunei is rich and beautiful. The 1,788-room Nurul Iman place, the light of faith, is a magnificant piece of architecture in Bandar Seri Begawan with many parks and tropical flower gardens, a reminder of the fairy tale "Thousand and One Nights."

"Its various supermarkets are abundantly stocked. The cost of the people's education and medical care are borne by the state. Although not having to worry about material shortages, all Bruneians, from leaders to ordinary people, cannot help being concerned about their intellectual standard, which is still not high enough."

As Brunei is a developing nation, it badly needs foreign cooperation and assistance. Brunei has to import everything except petroleum. Labor shortage is the most difficult problem, with all manual jobs being done by foreigners.

"What are the prospect for Vietnam-Brunei cooperation? The civil aviation agreement signed last November was the start of their mutually-beneficial cooperation.

With their official diplomatic ties established, Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah believe that there is great potential in political, economic, trade, and cultural cooperation.

"In reply to one of our questions on this matter, Brunei Minister of Communications Dato Haji Zakaria said: We have already established a flight route that links us together. The prospects for cooperation between the various sectors are favorable. The point is how to make full use of all the opportunities already created.

"For his part, Mr. Dau Ngoc Xuan, Vietnamese minister of state and head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, emphasized: The prospects for economic and trade cooperation are great. We are close to one another. Brunei's abundance in oil and capital provides us with the opportunities to expand our trade. But as an importing country it demands that our goods be of high quality, our prices reasonable, and goods delivered on schedule.

"Brunei needs skilled workers but has a labor shortage. Vietnam may exploit all these favorable conditions for cooperation. By being reliable, we will be guaranteed a foothold in this attractive market.

"This is just the beginning. There are many things to be done before all agreements can be translated into realities. But as Chairman Vo Van Kiet puts it, with a common desire for peace and stability so as to build a prosperous, plentiful, and happy country, it is certain that the neighborly and multifaceted cooperation between our two countries will flourish with every passing day in the interest of the two countries and of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and development in the region."

CPV Central Control Committee Visits Laos

BK0603114992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] According to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY in Vientiane, the delegation of the Central Control Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] paid a friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 27 February to 5 March. The delegation was led by Comrade Le Van Kien, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy director of the CPV Central Control Committee.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with the delegation of the Central Control Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and the LPDR State Inspection Commission. The Lao delegation was led by Mrs. Davon Vongsak, alternate member of the LPRP Central Committee and deputy director of the LPRP Central Control Committee. The two sides informed each other concerning their party work after the CPV Seventh Congress and the LPRP Fifth Congress, exchanged experiences on the party control and state inspection work, and agreed on the need to strengthen the cooperative relations between the two party committees. The two party Central Control Committees also signed documents for cooperation in 1992-1993.

On the afternoon of 4 March, Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, member of the LPRP Political Bureau and director of the LPRP Central Control Committee warmly received the delegation of the CPV Central Control Committee and State Inspection Commission.

Protocol Cooperation Signed

BK0903152592 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—A protocol on information and cultural cooperation between Vietnam and Laos was signed here today by Vietnamese Minister of Information, Culture and Sports Tran Hoan and his Lao counterpart Mounkeo Olaboun. Mr. Mounkeo Olaboun is leading a delegation of the Lao Ministry of Information, Culture, and Sports on a visit to Vietnam. They were received by Vice Premier Nguyen Khanh and visited some mass media offices and localities in north Vietnam.

Vietnamese Troop Presence in Cambodia Denied

BK1003113592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] On 9 March some foreign news agencies and newspapers reported that a UN officer who asked that he not be identified had said that Vietnamese military units are still operating in Cambodian territory.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY is authorized to declare that this is a sheer fabrication which has been spread with ill intention. Everyone knows that Vietnam has completed withdrawing its troops, advisers, military experts, and weapons from Cambodia since September 1989.

As a signatory to the Paris peace accord on Cambodia, Vietnam is cooperating with the United Nations and other relevant countries in implementing the Paris accord on Cambodia.

Flight Between HCM City, Singapore Inaugurated

BK0703102792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Recently, in Singapore, the aviation sectors of Vietnam and Singapore inaugurated the direct flight between the two countries. Attending on the Vietnamese side were aviation and Ho Chi Minh City officials and the representatives from the Vietnamese press and news agency led by Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam, deputy general director of Vietnam General Corporation of Aviation.

On the Singapore side were heads of its aviation authority, government and aviation officials and members of the mass media.

The establishment of a regular flight between Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore is of great significance as it will create favorable conditions for all sorts of bilateral exchange. At the same time, it will also be a profitable venture for the airlines of both countries.

At the flight inauguration ceremony, deputy director of the general corporation of Vietnam Aviation warmly thanked aviation heads, government officials and responsible agencies from both Singapore and Vietnam for the inauguration and the opportunity of both airlines to serve passengers in this sector. Both airlines expressed their desire to provide the best, quickest and most convenient service.

Army Paper on Singapore Defense Conference

BK0603120592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Mar 92

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 3 March commentary: "What Are the Basic Interests of Regional Security?"]

[Text] The first Asia-Pacific Defense Conference was held in Singapore on 26-28 February. It has drawn great attention from public opinion in the region and the world. Attending the conference were 18 high-ranking military officers from ASEAN countries and almost 100 noted military specialists from the United States, Britain, Japan, China, Australia, and other countries. They spent time and energy discussing the international situation, especially the latest developments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Delegates to the conference exchanged views on defense and security as well as a defense system in the region, discussed a plan to promote defense and security cooperation and to exchange information and military technology between Asian countries and superpowers outside the region.

Those who monitor the situation in the Asia-Pacific Region, especially in Southeast Asia, are undoubtedly pleased to see the new, positive factors which have been increasingly emerging while expressing concern over the defense and security policies of countries in the region during the post-cold war period.

The Asia-Pacific region, one of the most important strategic areas in the world, has undergone many unpredictable changes during the past several years: The Soviet Union disintegrated, thereby creating a power vaccum in the vast region. The United States, facing strong pressure by public opinion in the region, had to adjust its strategy by reducing its military forces in Asia. Many outstanding regional issues, which used to create tension in the relations between countries in the region, are likely to be resolved in the near future. In northestern Asia, North and South Korea have ceased their 40-year long confrontation and are discussing differences through peaceful negotiation. The signing of the Paris Peace Accord on Cambodia has created a new regional situation after the war in Cambodia, thus promising a new cooperation opportunity for peace, progress, and development between the Indochinese and ASEAN countries.

Against the general politico-geographical background of the Asia-Pacific Region, the world public opinion places much hope on the trend toward stability and development in the region during the 90s, especially when the European and Atlantic world are facing chaos and upheaval. For this reason, those who attended the Singapore conference have foreseen some challenging issues and planned to encourage regional countries to bear responsibilities before the old and new upheavals in this important region of the world.

What, then, are the problems arising at this first conference on defense and security? Singaporean Defense Minister Yeo Ning Hong solemnly delivered a long speech, emphasizing the main features of general defense strategy according to Singaporean concepts. He said: ASEAN countries must invest more in national defense to ensure peace and security in the region. He called on ASEAN countries to closely cooperate in national defense and accelerate bilateral and multilateral relations among themselves. Moreover, he called on the United States and other Western military superpowers to pay more attention to Southeast Asia and to play a bigger political role in the region. Yeo Ning Hong, however, revealed some contradictions when, on the one hand, he wished that Japan—a country with very strong economic and technological potential—would become the biggest investor in Singapore and its major trade partner, while on the other hand, he expressed concern over the Japanese policy to modernize its navy to check its sea routes beyond its current 10,000 nautical-mile coverage, as well as a revival of Japanese militarism.

Significantly, differences on security and defense strategies among countries have been displayed at this conference. Due to national interests and differing political motives, delegates did not dare touch on the most significance points in the U.S. Asia-Pacific strategy, a factor threatening peace and security in the region. Although the U.S. is trying to adjust its strategy, Washington, however, is determined to enhance its influence in the Asia-Pacific Region.

It is regretable, however, that while the Philippines has undergone numerous difficulties to dismantle U.S. military bases on its territory, some countries in Southeast Asia have showed their willingness to let the United States use their territories or facilities to maintain its military presence in the region.

It is surprising that the Singaporean defense minister has raised the issue of a threat coming from such communist countries as China, Vietnam, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Peace and security in Southeast Asia are the aspirations of countries in the region and are in conformity with the general trends developing in the world. What are the basic concerns for the security of the region? The answer is that the most fundamental interests of Southeast Asian countries are ensuring peace and security, national independence for every country to determine its own future without outside interference, and a condition in which regional countries can accelerate cooperation and help one another in economic and cultural development while opening their doors to foreign cooperation and investment, and are to resolve regional differences through peaceful negotition.

The people of Southeast Asia have profoundly realized the serious catastrophe caused by conflicts and wars which stemmed directly from expansionism and aggression imposed by colonialist and imperialist forces. The consequences of the bloodbaths, ruin, and destruction of towns and cities during the repeated wars in Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia—the region's biggest victims—have caused Indochinese countries to become poor and backward.

The victories of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the struggle for national independence and freedom have contributed to bringing Southeast Asia into a new stage. At present, a new opportunity is approaching Southeast Asia and favorable conditions are available for implementing the principles of ZOFAN [Zone of Freedom and Neutrality]. In this spirit, we have solemnly announced: Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries and will do its best to build a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

The Southeast Asian nations now have an unprecedented opportunity to reduce their military expenditures and to increase their normally limited budgets for economic building and cultural development.

The general objectives of the recent Singapore defense conference are aimed at supporting the trend of a new political concept, but this does not mean that obsolete political and military schemes have been eliminated.

'Obstructive Move' Against Committee Denounced

BK0603072892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 92

["Station Article"]

[Text] The Mekong Committee initially formed by Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, has come to a halt because of obstructive move on the part of Thailand. The committee was first set up in 1957 and since 1978 has been represented by an interim body based in Bangkok and comprising Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. Cambodia was unable to participate because of specific circumstances.

With the assistance of the United Nations and the world community, it has succeded in laying down fundamental principles for the use of the water resources which are in conformity with international law and which form a solid basis for long-term cooperation among member states.

Following the signing of the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC], made clear that the SNC would rejoin the Mekong Committee. Also the interim committee planned to hold a plenary meeting from February 17 to 20 where it would adopt a statement welcoming the participation of the SNC and would put a stop to its iterim status. Thailand, seeking to stop the basic documents it had agreed to, turned down the statement and unilaterally postponed the planned meeting although the other delegations were already present in Bangkok.

In another move, Thailand proposed a six-country meeting to include China and Myanmar [Burma] to wipe off the four-member committee together with all related documents. To further neutralize the committee, Thailand demanded the replacement of the committee's executive secretary Mr. Lankerster from Canada.

This deplorable situation has prompted Premier Vo Van Kiet to send a letter to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun on February 24 urging the leader of the Thai Government to intervene for an early resumption of the Mekong Committee with the participation of the SNC. Vietnam will be cooperated with and will discuss with other parties issues which are interested to Thailand and which also concern the interest of member states both up and down the Mekong River.

In late February and early March, the Vietnamese side held meeting with ambassadors of countries and international organizations concerned to inform them of the situation and ask for the support to the resumption of the committee's activities with the participation of the SNC. All matters of interest to Thailand will be discussed. This act of Vietnam conforms not only to the international law but also to the fundamental interest of the Mekong riverine countries and the tendency of cooperation in the region.

Foreign Minister on Relations With ASEAN

BK0903123592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Interview with SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam by QUAN DOI NHAN DAN correspondent; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] In your recent visit to the six ASEAN countries, what was your best experience?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] The best experience I had is the obvious result in implementing the correct foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and promoting international relations set by the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. I should say that this policy has been implemented actively, positively, and timely in accordance with the regional trend toward peace and cooperation for mutual developmental interest.

[Correspondent] What was the biggest success of this visit?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] The biggest success of this visit has been the change in relations between Vietnam and regional countries from confrontation to cooperation and friendship. Through the visit, various agreements were reached which will serve as basic principles for Vietnam to promote its relations with regional countries in the new stage. The visit also helped set major orientations for Vietnam to expand its cooperation with

Southeast Asian countries in various aspects, especially in the economic, trade, communications, and transportation domains, thereby ushering in the new era for Vietnam to participate in regional cooperation, first of all the signing of the 1976 Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. All these successes have created a better favorable international situation for Vietnam to strengthen its national reconstruction and enhance its prestige in the international arena.

[Correspondent] In the past, there was a concept of two separate groups of countries in Southeast Asia, namely the ASEAN and Indochinese groups; does this concept still exist at present? And in reality, does the Southeast Asia community exist yet or not? And what are the ASEAN countries' views on this issue?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] The Southeast Asian region is composed of countries with different politico-social system, nonetheless, they have similar features historically, culturally, and geographically. Due to objective circumstances, for a long period of time countries in the region experienced suspicion and confrontation between the two groups of countries namely Indochina and ASEAN. This situation was not beneficial to countries in the region. Today, the trend of friendship in Southeast Asia is developing vigorously. Countries in the region rely on peace, stability, and cooperation to carry out their development programs, thus common interest will help strengthen relations among them. I am convinced that leaders of the ASEAN countries have the same impression, and for this reason, they have expressed the aspiration to improve relations with Vietnam and other Indochinese countries. As a result, Vietnam is ready to participate in the Bali Treaty and the ASEAN countries have unanimously expressed their support for Vietnam and Laos to join this treaty.

[Correspondent] If Vietnam joins the Bali Treaty, does it constitute Vietnam's official presence in the ASEAN?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] Vietnam's participation in the regional cooperation is a long process that requires time to materialize. Vietnam's joining the Bali Treaty is the initial step in this process. Agreements reached between Vietnam and each of the ASEAN countries are the important basis for this cooperation. These agreements are based on the principle of respect for one another's independence and sovereignty, noninterference to one another's internal affairs, nonuse of force or threat of force against one another, and settlement of all conflicts through peaceful negotiations on the basis of equality, mutual interest, and maintaining peace.

[Correspondent] What are the remaining problems in the relations between Vietnam and ASEAN?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] Agreements reached between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries are the initial basis for expanding regional cooperation. It is obvious that we cannot resolve overnight all issues left behind by history. However, most importantly, Vietnam and the ASEAN countries have agreed to resolve the remaining problems through peaceful negotiations. Pending the settlement of these problems, parties concerned should adopt an attitude of self-restraint to prevent the situation from becoming worse. The ASEAN countries have unanimously agreed to this principle.

[Correspondent] What is your appraisal to Thailand's recent unilateral decision causing an obstacle to activities of the Mekong Committee?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] Vietnam's unswerving stand is to settle all issues in the spirit of friendship and cooperation and through discussion among member countries of the Mekong Committee, including Cambodia which is represented by the SNC [Supreme National Council] on the basis of equality, respect for one another's interest, and nonimposition on the others.

[Correspondent] Did Vietnam and the ASEAN countries touch on regional security matters in their recent talks? Is there any different between our views and those of ASEAN countries over this matter?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] All ASEAN leaders stressed the need to achieve development, regarding this as an important factor for ensuring internal stability. They also realized the importance of promoting cooperation in the interest of peace and stability. Every country should protect its own security and respect the security of others.

[Correspondent] To what extent does the U.S. embargo against Vietnam affect the relations between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] All ASEAN member countries expressed their desire to see the United States promptly lift its embargo against Vietnam as this will benefit not only Vietnam and the United States but also the entire region.

Recently, when Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Solomon visited Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Thai Foreign Minister Asa asked the United States to lift its embargo against Vietnam.

As for their bilateral relations with Vietnam, all the ASEAN countries clearly affirmed that there are no more obstacles in multifaceted cooperation.

[Correspondent] Comrade, how do you assess the potential and prospects of cooperation between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] Vietnam has signed or will promptly sign with various ASEAN member countries an agreement on investment promotion and protection and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, and will revise those agreements on economic and trade cooperation already signed to suit current conditions. We have also signed agreements on maritime transport and civil aviation with a number of these countries.

Our economy and that of the ASEAN countries are totally able to supplement each other. Moreover, as a number of ASEAN countries possess a high degree of development, Vietnam and the ASEAN countries can expand their trade and increase their mutual cooperation in various domains, first of all in raising and processing farm, forestry, and aquatic products, tapping natural resources, manufacturing industries, tourism, and services.

All the ASEAN countries expressed their desire to increase their investment in Vietnam and help Vietnam train its scientific, technical, and research cadres in those areas where they are experienced such as finance, banking, and the biological industry.

All the ASEAN countries admitted that Vietnam has great potential in manpower and natural resources. They highly appraised our renovation policy and believe that not only would their cooperation with Vietnam bring economic benefits but would also constitute an important factor for maintaining peace and stability in the region.

[Correspondent] Amid the turbulent international situation, some people claim that Vietnam is facing great challenges while others believe that we are enjoying new opportunities.

[Nguyen Manh Cam] It is true that we are facing great challenges. But we are also enjoying not inconsiderable opportunities. As our renovation has scored many very important achievements, our country's political situation is now stable and our international relations are being expanded. In addition, our country is located in an area which receives worldwide attention. We are totally able to seize and make use of these opportunities to create international conditions ever more favorable for our national development in the spirit of Vietnam wishing to befriend all countries in the world community in the struggle for peace, independence, and development.

Chemical Corps Holds Meeting To Review Work

BK0603143992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Chemical Corps just held a meeting to review its work and brief heads of chemical groups and unit leaders on the preparation work for 1992 military training. So far, despite having lower number of personnel, many heads of chemical troops of military zones and Army corps have gained attention from their commands and assistance from related organs and sections for satisfactory completion of their tasks.

The Military Chemical Sector of Military Region One and the Chemical Troop of Tay Nguyen Division have combined their military training with the postwar detoxification of poisonous substances. The Chemical Troop of Huong Giang Division advises military commands on chemical detoxification techniques in military training. The Chemical Sector of the Air Defense Force trains and develops specialized chemical groups according to its duty.

At the meeting, the heads of chemical groups also received briefs on chemical safety under the present military tactics, military training programs, group military exercises, issues relating to poisonous chemicals, registration and statistics of chemicals, and maintenance procedures for equipment and weapons.

In 1992, all units need to improve training quality and to focus on cadre training and the use of primitive and modern equipment.

Bank Directors Discuss Monetary Tasks in Hanoi

BK0503103992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] On 3 and 4 March, the banking sector held a conference of bank directors of provinces and cities countrywide in Hanoi. The conferees focused on the assessment of monetary tasks from the fourth quarter of 1991 to the end of January 1992, pointed out the initial experiences in implementing Decision 337 of the council of ministers, especially in the sales of gold and US dollars in markets and the management of foreign currencies.

Concerning the monetary tasks in the fourth quarter 1991, the sector basically met the demands for cash of production and circulation domains. However, since January 1992, the situation of cash has become somewhat difficult. With a view to solving this situation step by step, the banking sector has adopted measures to collect cash such as selling promissory notes, gold, and foreign currencies for cash; closely control overdue debts of credits and the use of cash and foreign currencies; settle the problems in paying compensations and transferring money; and so forth.

However, many localities have not fully exploited their sources of cash for circulation. The banking sector is devising some positive measures to concentrate all capabilities on meeting the demands for cash of production and circulation domains and social life.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Phan Van Khai, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, praised the initial efforts of the banking sector during last year, particularly in the last months of the year. At the same time, he pointed out the outstanding problems of the sector last year and raised five major issues that should be carried out by the sector this year which, involve the role of banks in curbing inflation, accumulating capital, implementing the one-price payment system, managing foreign exchanges, and stabilizing gold prices and the U.S. dollar rate.

The sector should concentrate on renovating its operations according to the new mechanism in order to satisfactorily support production and life and help implement the socioeconomic objectives in 1992.

Australia

Keating on 'Peace Boat,' Canberra-Jakarta Ties

BK1003071292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The Portuguese protest ship, Lusitania Expresso, is due to reach Indonesian territorial waters tomorrow as it head for the province of East Timor. At last report the ship was about 170 kms off the coast of East Timor and is expected to reach Indonesian territorial waters early tomorrow. Indonesia has banned entry of the ship and protesters on board say they will turn back if they meet armed Indonesian resistance. Mark Bowling reports.

[Begin Bowling recording] Captain Luys Dos Santos says the ship will approach Timor from the southeast and will arrive close to Indonesian territorial waters at dawn tomorrow. He is expecting Indonesian naval flotilla to stop the Lusitania Expresso. Whether he will give the command to sail on or retreat will be a decision he makes on the spot. Today, the captain says he has heard Indonesian radio messages and one of the main topics of conversation has been the Lusitania Expresso. He has not ruled out an encounter earlier than tomorrow. [end recording]

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating says he is not clear what effect, if any, the voyage of the Lusitania Expresso may have on relations between Canberra and Jakarta. But he says the government gave appropriate warnings to people travelling on the vessel before it left the Australian port of Darwin last night. Mr. Keating also said he did not know if Australia's relations with Indonesia will be soured by the publicity surrounding the leaked foreign affairs department document criticizing corruption with Indonesia's ruling family. But the opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Robert Hill, says the document will be regarded by Asia as another example of Australia applying its own values and failing to see the achievements of Asian leaders. [passage omitted]

Evans To Urge France To End Nuclear Testing

BK0903100292 Hong Kong AFP in English 2023 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] PAPEETE, March 8 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans arrived Sunday in Tahiti for a 12-hour visit during which sources here said he would call on France to stop nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Evans was met on arrival at the airport here by High Commissioner Michel Jau and President Gaston Flosse, as he undertakes a tour which will also take him to Latin America and Europe.

Well-informed sources said he would ask France to stop conducting nuclear tests and sign a treaty banning nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Evans was also to hold talks with local authorities and opposition leaders on developing closer economic ties between Australia and the French Overseas Territory, the sources said.

He was to leave Polynesia later Sunday for Europe and Latin America.

Papua New Guinea

Premier's Reaction to Secessionist Conflict

Namaliu Said To Rule Out Force

BK0803084692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, has ruled out the use of force to try to resolve the Bougainville secessionist dispute. In an interview with Radio Australia in Rabaul, Mr. Namaliu said enough lives have been lost in the conflict which he strongly believes could be resolved peacefully. He said it was his biggest regret that he had not been able to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict during his four years as prime minister.

However, he is prepared to keep pushing for a peaceful resolution no matter how much time or effort is required. Mr. Namaliu also said the government was considering ways of silencing broadcasts by the secessionist-operated Radio Free Bougainville.

Accused of Misleading Media

BK0903073292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has been accused of misleading the media by saying he has ruled out the use of force to try to settle the secessionist dispute on Bougainville. The Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] says at the time Mr. Namaliu was telling the media yesterday, PNG's Defense Forces were firing on Kangu Beach and Buin in the southern tip of Bougainville.

The BRA says [words indistinct] soldiers had fired automatic weapons while attempting to establish a beachhead at Buin. A spokeswoman for the chief of staff of the defense force, Colonel Robert Sabumai, said the Port Moresby headquarters knew nothing about the reported attack. At the same time though, Provincial Affairs Minister Father John Mormis says the defense force patrols on southern Bougainville have been increased recently to prevent the BRA receiving supplies from Solomon Islands.